Daily Report

Latin America

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OAS Secretary General Inaugural Address

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[Inaugural address by OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, delivered in the Americas Hall of OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C.; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...Mr. President of the Permanent Council; Mr. U.S. Secretary of State; Messrs. Foreign Ministers; heads of delegations; Mr. Assistant Secretary General; Messrs. Ambassadors; OAS officials; Ana Milena, Simona, and Maria Paz; distinguished guests:

I want thank Ambassador Cesar Alvarez Guadamuz, president of the Permanent Council, for his generous words, which is one of the qualities he has demonstrated at the helm of the Permanent Council, representing his country, Guatemala. I want, my worthy friend, to note the symbolism of the fact that the inauguration of the new OAS secretary general is taking place on the anniversary of Central American independence. I wish to extend through you my warmest congratulations to all Central Americans. I am also indebted for the speech by Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Christopher Thomas, without doubt one of the Caribbean's most prominent representatives. To you, worthy Ambassador Thomas, I express my gratitude for having lead the OAS with loyalty, intelligence, and vision during this transition.

I must say that I feel a great satisfaction in assuming the post of OAS secretary general in the presence of so many friends and personalities, among whom I would like to mention Prime Minister James Mitchell, as well as another who for obvious reasons is especially significant, Colombian President Dr. Ernesto Samper Pizano.

During my years as president of my country, I was witness to the capacity of the people to face up to adversities, as well as to their spirit of change and transformation within the bounds of democracy. Now you, my fellow compatriots in the Latin American hemisphere, have honored me with one of America's highest responsibilities. I was not elected to administer the routine; I also know very well that I have not been elected to administer any (?nation). Member countries, and you as their representatives, Messrs. Ambassadors, will find in the secretary general your staunchest ally for your collective hopes, and a devout fighter for liberty, democracy, peace, prosperity, integration, and the well-being of all of America's compatriots

The job of building a renewed inter-American structure, a dream to which Dr. Alberto Lleras Camargo dedicated many years, is a collective goal of the OAS and its member countries. Fortunately, we are making possible what I perceive as a true meeting between what have been from the onset the OAS' tutelary principles. I refer to, among others, to the legal equality of the states, the peaceful solution to conflicts, and nonintervention in the internal affairs as a result of a new world order, which we are beginning to sketch, not without its difficulties. I speak, for example, of interdependence as an unquestionable reality, construction and consolidation of democracy and its individual and collective liberties, including of course the promotion and defense of human rights, the need for solidary cooperation among nations, and the search for equality through instruments like free trade.

The moment I am speaking of could not be more timely: The Americas, supported by tradition and the advantages derived from unity and the diversity of its multiethnic and multicultural wealth, constitutes a [words indistinct] region, the second most dynamic in growth after Pacific Asia.

This is why today I want to begin this dialogue by sharing with you some ideas on those topics that could serve to draft a new agenda for the OAS. These ideas are nothing more than a contribution to encourage reflection and so that you can learn openly and frankly the thoughts of he who will be your strongest ally in accomplishing the collective goals.

There has been much headway in America in bringing the hemisphere close to the ideals of the OAS Charter.

Democracy, once the exception, is now the rule. Once immutable trade barriers have crumbled to give way to private sector, economic, and state reforms, integration and [word indistinct]. Those who previously fostered the conflict now want to correct the errors and place human dignity above any political or ideological consideration. [Word indistinct] decades of intolerance and rivalries among brother nations. The internal peace is [words indistinct] in many nations through dialogue and negotiation while the conviction is reborn that the time of the Americas is here.

The OAS's main responsibility is undoubtedly its political action in favor of decency, promotion, and development of democracy. [Words indistinct] its Charter, makes it the sole multilateral organization in which defense of democracy is unmistakably essential. For a long time, the commitment to democracy was just a matter of doctrine, mere words, instead of actions. The defense of national interests, an old hemispheric security concept that interfered by ousting [word indistinct] from this organization's mandate. With the end of the Cold War, the reestablishment of democratically elected regimes across practically the whole continent, and with the adoption of new instruments like the Santiago Commitment, the Washington Protocol, and the Managua Declaration, have placed the Americas in the vanguard [words indistinct].

We have a [word indistinct] legacy on which we can construct new rapprochement. The role the organization played under the wise leadership of Secretary General Joao Baena Soares in Guatemala, Nicaragua, [word indistinct], Suriname—just to mention a few—

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demonstrate the significant potential of prevailing initiatives for collective action in defense of fundamental liberties, solving those crises that threaten the endurance of the people's will. Nevertheless, OAS action on this front [word indistinct] more vigorous, more extensive, and more effective. There should be no doubt that the first item on the inter-American agenda at the turn of the century is strengthening the state of democracy in the hemisphere. This is why the organization should play ever more a more ambitious and broad role in the next [word indistinct] related to its responsibility to defend democracy.

[Word indistinct] the OAS should play a direct role in handling democratic crises in the hemisphere. Those crises that destroy democratic institutions and principles are perhaps the organization's most complex challenge. Finding an adequate balance within a context of a crisis between the defense of the principle of nonintervention and the constitutional and moral obligation to protect democracy has never been easy. It is contradictory that at times, the extreme zeal to guarantee nonintervention eliminates the speed and finesse that diplomatic and political actions require to be effective. [Words indistinct] on occasion to allow lack of action to consolidate undemocratic forces, thereby inviting others in other scenarios to pursue solutions, on which others have not been consulted, to problems that essentially belong to the Americas. These fears of many nations have their origin in the eagerness of not making legitimate [word indistinct] interventions that are in the interests of one nation or in not creating a precedent that give way to interventions that go beyond the strict defense of democracy in other areas of growing international concern.

In the past, the OAS has been used more to hold back unilateralism than to generate collective action, more to counterbalance the big powers than to resolve the hemisphere's problems.

At any rate, the time has come to promote the confidence and cooperation that will allow us to seek genuine consensus on measures. Without any doubt there are some situations which, because of their magnitude and repercussions, limitations in the Organization's Charter, or simply because of obstacles in finding consensus that lead to action, would seem to overpower the ability to reach a regional solution. It is therefore necessary to move into a more global arena. Unquestionably, even in these exceptional circumstances, the OAS has an unavoidable responsibility to protect. This is why we must combine a capability for mediation and exhibit political and diplomatic efforts granted by the Charter, with the convenience of creating more effective coordination mechanisms together with the United Nations.

Second, the OAS should be able to count on instruments for permanent advisory, mediation, and conciliation efforts that will allow it to anticipate and defuse tensions that may unleash processes leading to ruptures in democracy. We are aware of that threats to democracy do not take place secretly, or from one moment to the next. An evaluation of the situation that undermines stability of some democracies in the hemisphere suggests that tensions and conflicts affecting institutions were woven over months and even years. Much suffering could have been prevented by anticipating those destructive forces and by acting politically as well as diplomatically.

Our Organization could make its political expertise more permanently available to exercise or even promote mediation, reconciliation, supervisory, and follow-up duties. This could be done in such a way that, at the request of the countries involved, conflicts that cannot be solved within the framework of national organizations, could find legitimate solutions that will deter institutional disruptions.

In concluding, [word indistinct] the mission to strengthen democracy by supporting institutional development, productive government administration through electoral clarity, and the promotion of a democratic culture. Strong democracies [words indistinct] do not depend only on clear-cut election mechanisms. They also rely on sound management systems, instruments allowing participation by citizens, a reasonable degree of decentralization, a modern and dynamic legislative branch, clear government management, and constant concern for satisfying the people's demands, regardless of color, creed, or status.

In order to encourage a moment of reflection, I would like to suggest some ideas on issues that could become part of our hemispheric agenda that might serve to promote democracy in the medium and long term.

First of all, I believe the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the OAS, as leading organizations of the inter-American system, should work side by side to combine our respective comparative advantages and offer a wide-ranging spectrum of technical expertise and economic and political resources to support the transformation, modernization, and state reforms in any country that may so seek these changes. It is fundamental for the inter-American system to spare no effort to support the modernization of the legal system and structural reforms to the judicial system, just as the IDB has been doing for some time now. It is also crucial to advance in adapting the judicial system to the requirements of the economic system in order to prevent inefficiencies and obstacles. Most of all, adaptation is required in order for the population to have confidence that the justice system will be able to solve problems, deter crime, and offer more protection. Moreover, democracy requires active participation by citizens.

The development of alternative means for the people to express themselves and the opening of participatory democratic channels would undoubtedly contribute to making political systems in the hemisphere broader and more sensitive. The key to democratic stability in the long term is not only found in the joining of millions of downtrodden to a formal economy or the benefits of

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progress. It is also found in their incorporation into the culture of democracy and the political decisionmaking processes.

At the same time we must promote a transparent public service. Corruption and disregard for ethics in public administration represent a phenomenon that discredits democracy, nourishes skepticism, and promotes the people's disenchantment with their political system. This is a serious problem that is behind much of the deterioration of democratic institutions at local and national levels.

On electoral issues: Even though it is necessary to recognize that the presence of the OAS in some elections has represented a great experience that has brought prestige to the organization, it is also time to fine tune and even strengthen the system we (?have chosen). We must be more selective and above all more precise in defining the circumstances surrounding every election. We must do this [word indistinct] relation with the nature of the mandate and the responsibility of the observers. In addition, the OAS should also promote the strengthening and independence of the electoral systems and organizations of the countries on the continent and encourage the exchange of technology in this area, a vital element for democracy. Each of our countries has valuable experiences to offer; there are also things we can learn from other countries. The OAS could also offer its members, like the United Nations does in many countries, a long list of names of frontline advisers on state reforms and on constitutional and institutional changes. It could also, in association with other inter-American and nongovernmental organizations, encourage the creation of a center for the study of democracy that would be responsible for teaching, research, and technical preparation, thus multiplying the reach of resources allocated for this area. The group for the promotion of democracy must count on our support in light of the complexity of the tasks included in its agenda.

Another important issue, and one strongly related to the defense of democracy, is the protection and promotion of human rights. No organization has brought more prestige and glory to the work of the OAS than its organization for the defense of human rights. The commission and the Inter-American Court must count on our unconditional support for their delicate work. To further the goals already attained, we must work to ensure that the commission and the court will have greater autonomy in their work. The evaluation of the human rights situation in each country, the study of specific cases will only be useful and constructive if conducted in an atmosphere free of pressure or political influence. Undoubtedly, funds available for the commission and the Court are insufficient. We must make an effort to provide these organizations with all that they need to investigate, with their own means and personnel, more cases. They must gather all available evidence to reach complete and independent conclusions and provide solutions.

The duties of human rights organizations go beyond the critical duty of ensuring justice. Human rights organizations must not only point out problems, teach ways to overcome them, and punish human rights violations. Its work must also be complemented with vigorous preventionist actions and promotion. This must be done, in particular, by the Inter-American Commission. This organization was created to ensure social awareness for the respect of the fundamental rights of men, to strengthen national organizations responsible for ensuring protection of human rights, and to suggest policies and actions for those countries that wish to improve the work of its institutions in this field. In addition, it would be a good demonstration of our collective respect for human rights if all the member countries sign the human rights convention and accept, in a more generalized manner, the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court. All this has to do with strengthening democracy and creating an awareness of the need to respect human rights.

Now please allow me to broach two additional issues that should have a very important place on our agenda: the protection of the environment and hemispheric integration.

Regarding the environment, this matter will require collective action. It is a matter that concerns all nations. The OAS must continue to discuss priority issues such as those related to the expansion of world trade and protection of the environment. It must include economic issues and allot a good amount of time to discussion of those issues aimed at protecting the environment, technical cooperation for sustainable development, and heightening the awareness and interest of our peoples and governments in these matters.

This seems to be a good moment for our hemisphere to advance toward the consolidation of the international standards [preceding word in English] on environmental matters. Protection, use, and preservation of the riches in areas like the Caribbean Sea, the rain forest, and Antarctica, among others, as well as our biodiversity, must be done through ideas that will truly ensure sustainable development. This is why the Americas, with the help of the nongovernmental communities and organizations, should not only seek to adopt policies in common and [words indistinct] environmental matters but also ensure that industrialized countries will abide by commitments they made during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Throughout the past few years important progress has been made in trade and investment, especially in integrating a world that is beginning to organize in blocs. In addition to a broad range of bilateral agreements, NAFTA and the G-3 [Group of Three] agreements have been signed. We must continue to consolidate Mercosur, the Andean Pact, the Caribbean Common Market, and the Central American Common Market. The results have been amazing. For example, foreign sales by Mercosur and Andean Pact countries have tripled in the past

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four years. Interregional trade in Central America is showing signs of being as dynamic as it was during the late seventies. The Andean Pact and Mercosur have become the main foreign markets for countries that comprise these blocs.

We need to admit, nevertheless, that the ultimate goal should be to create a free zone for the region's countries. For this there are complimentary strategies, which by the way, are outlined in a recent ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America], IDB, and OAS study.

One suggestion has been to deepen existing bilateral agreements and try and make them fully compatible with internationally accepted practices. The agreements should include a substantial proportion of reciprocal trade with open and simple adherence clauses. Bilateral strategies, nevertheless, have important limitations, through third party discrimination and trade (?deviations), which discourage investment by mistrust.

On the other hand, proliferation of bilateral agreements can cause conflicts in the area and lead to the exclusion of small countries.

The multilateral strategy is more complex and slower than the bilateral strategy in its initial stages but becomes an essential requirement in creating a free zone in the hemisphere. For this reason it is necessary to work simultaneously and with priority emphasis on a multilateral consensus strategy. We need to incorporate other countries into all 23 agreements on integration that exist in the world today and create a series of rules aimed at creating greater hegemony in the collective liberalization required in the future.

This endeavor would mark the first time that the OAS would become involved in economic affairs, an event unparalleled since the Alliance for Progress.

The OAS, using its special trade connections and the various other inter-American organizations, could help with statistics, giving technical and legal assistance to help solve the different conflicts that might crop up in the various negotiations or on various topics like trade and investment.

The OAS must also complement the actions of multilateral entities by encouraging open regulatory schemes and a common investment framework that encourages the private sector to invest in developing the region's communications, transportation, and energy. Only in this way will we be able to attain the efficient participation of national and foreign capital in the development of infrastructure, generating the necessary state resources to satisfy our population's growing justice, health, and education needs. In this way we will be able to overcome one of the greatest stumbling blocks on the road to establishing truly democratic societies.

Another important issue in which the OAS has sometimes (?shirked) its duty deals with a new outlook on hemispheric security and nonproliferation. The Santiago Commitment; the Nassau Declaration, in connection with certain regional contributions toward global security; and more recently, conclusions reached at the Managua Assembly, are valid examples of issues that the OAS needs to continue to think about. The importance of topics like disarmament, arms control, openness in procurement of weapons, prevention of war, adoption of measures that develop trust among people through exchange of technical and military information, use of mechanisms for peaceful solution of disputes, and permanent improvement of relations between civilians and the military in member countries are an example of the OAS's growing interest in developing an internal agenda to do with security. To this we need add the traditional debates on the future of the Inter-American Defense Board and on the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, TIAR.

On the other hand, the Americas cannot overlook the threat posed by drug trafficking and narco-terrorist activities by criminal organizations that live off that industry. The heroic efforts of some societies to control demand is not enough, nor are the efforts of other societies to diminish consumption. The international community must organize a cooperation network that attacks this illegal business, ranging from the illegal planting of coca, marijuana, or poppies, to the final destination of these products, that is, the hands of addicts. The control of money laundering, trafficking in chemical precursors, and even arms trafficking, are also bridges on which we all can and should do much more about.

The OAS, through the [word indistinct] and in a successful effort to (?obtain) resources not only from member countries but also from third countries, has focused its action in areas of particular interest in this struggle as well as [words indistinct] with strengthening drug legislation at local and international levels, preventing consumption, and developing a common awareness of the dangers inherent in this activity. But this is not enough. Nations can and must do much more to achieve the ideal of a drug-free youth.

In the struggle to strengthen democracy and for a world free of violence, poverty, and drugs, where human rights are respected and where development and the conservation of our natural resources are possible, the hemisphere has a key that undoubtedly unites our peoples. That key is making integration our goal.

The presence here today of Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes symbolizes the strength of culture upon which we must undoubtedly base ourselves to face the challenges of our times.

I do not want to let this occasion pass without mentioning some of the Organization's internal topics. They are specifically related to structure, technical cooperation, educational assistance programs, and selection of personnel. Although it is true that the OAS has changed

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and has begun to adapt to current needs, leaving behind some flaws which had sentenced it to immobility or inaction, I do not think I should ignore the concern about the way in which it is carrying out its technical cooperation and how on occasions this cooperation does not have the relevance or impact it should have.

Its scholarship program suffers from disorganization, shortage of resources, lack of clear guidelines for granting scholarships, and—why not say it—from the way that personnel involved in its different areas are selected. In these historic times for the OAS and in view of the way that it has taken control of its destiny in recent years, we have an opportunity that we cannot waste. To begin with, we should undertake an (?internal) evaluation of technical cooperation, the scholarship program, and the systems for selecting and evaluating personnel.

Technical cooperation is of enormous importance to some member countries, and undoubtedly for the smallest countries it is essential. Nevertheless, it is common to hear criticism, which I believe is correct, indicating that it is impossible to reach all countries in all fields with such scant resources. This should lead us to design cooperation programs centered on priority actions and to redirect these to countries that need them the most. The bigger countries, those where technical cooperation is practically insignificant, would receive from the OAS the benefits derived from its political action. The Organization must also encourage horizontal cooperation among its members. This type of cooperation not only constitutes an expression of solidarity but is perhaps the best recognition of the (?interdependence) of our peoples.

The challenge we all face is enormous. We must begin by creating [word indistinct] in the organization because it is formed by a system of institutions. Through them, its links can be strengthened and it can work united, avoiding duplication and dispersion, and using the complementary advantages stemming from joint action.

The OAS must also develop greater capacity to manage additional resources, not only from its members but also from other nations and organizations. Of course, for this objective we must gain confidence and respect from the international community. In the near future, we should evaluate the work of the offices in the countries. The new concerns of the hemisphere, the concentration of our cooperation funds, with special emphasis on the poorest countries, and the need to find internal resources for new programs are aspects that must be taken into account when analyzing the maintenance of offices, some of which might disappear.

We can move ahead to become a model of professionalism and efficient administration, a model that any member state should want to adopt. We must seek the most brilliant and best people of the region so they can augment the experience and capability of the personnel of this organization. The OAS should be the arena for the new generations of professionals of the hemisphere to make available their willingness to serve and their hopeful vision of the future. They are the ones who will make a difference.

Mr. President of the Permanent Council, Messrs. Chiefs of State and Government, ladies and gentlemen:

The U.S. President's initiative to convene the presidents of the entire continent to jointly design the future of the hemisphere and establish common objectives is a historic opportunity which we cannot waste. Even though natural and inevitable differences exist on hemispheric affairs and complex momentary issues, it would be advisable to make an effort to center the thematic agenda and the discussions of the Summit of the Americas on the substantial range of topics that unite us, not on the circumstances that separate us.

The legacy of distrust left by the errors of the past, in which unilateral actions of force sowed suspicion and (?apprehension), can end if we make the Summit of the Americas the stage to develop a real common agenda, which I personally foresee will be quite consistent with what we have outlined today, because I believe these are the essential topics of concern to the hemisphere.

The confidence and hope of the peoples of America would not withstand the affront of one more episode of hollow words and unkept promises. That is why the OAS is ready to assume the responsibilities it is assigned at that summit, because to make the promises a reality it is not enough to define stereotype follow-up or evaluation mechanisms. Responsible institutions must assume the task of making initiatives a reality.

I do not want to conclude these words without referring to two topics that concern all of us who want to live in a democratic and peaceful hemisphere, free of tensions. I am referring to the situations in Cuba and Haiti. Both countries belong to the Americas and to this organization. Therefore, we cannot remain detached from their fate. Neither can we turn over the [words indistinct] about these topics to those who argue considerations of domestic policy. There must be inter-American resolve to analyze these realities and to contribute solutions.

I dare to state, with the authority of someone who has viewed these problems from a national perspective, that deep down there is a very general consensus about what direction to take to guarantee Cuba's full reincorporation into the inter-American community of nations.

No one has any doubt that Cuba must make deep economic and political reforms, consistent with the popular will, to establish a pluralistic regime with civil liberties. To move forward, stimulating change, even if in a gradual manner, acclimatizing consensus, recognizing successes, adopting measures of confidence, stimulating exchange, and calming spirits would be contributions that would undoubtedly facilitate these transformations and consequently, Cuba's reinsertion, sooner rather than later.

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In order to encourage those constructive trends, Cuba cannot be isolated. The doors must be opened to the airing of ideas so that information will flow and so that the future will be debated in an impartial environment.

I am moderately optimistic when I observe that the United States and Cuba have been able to resolve the thorny issue of migration in a rational manner through bilateral negotiations. It is a precedent that shows the immense potential of dialogue as a tool for overcoming the differences which still persist.

Friends: President Aristide will return to Haiti. That is the desire of the people who elected him, and it is the [word indistinct] will of the international community, faithfully reflected in the OAS decisions and the UN Security Council resolutions, to which some countries on the continent have objections but which are being fully implemented.

Before, during, and after his return, the OAS will assume its responsibility to the Haitian people. The work of the joint UN-OAS civilian mission and the efforts of Ambassador Dante Caputo deserve our full support.

But in the upcoming process of reconstructing Haiti's democracy, the role of the OAS as political organization par excellence in the inter-American system will be crucial. We must promote a process of full reconciliation in Haiti. This process must be implemented in accordance with the principles established in the Governors Island Agreement. According to the agreement, all sectors in Haitian society will be the (?owners) of the democratic institution that must be rebuilt and strengthened day by day.

At times, the OAS will be available to lead the process and contribute to its implementation because, if there ever was a place where democracy is not possible without social and economic changes, that place, in all truth, is Haiti. The rescue of the people's will and the recovery of the people's rights would be useless if accompanied by this same poverty.

We hope that those who today rend their garments in demanding the reinstatement of democracy in Haiti will not turn their backs on the poorest people in America once their tragedy is no longer on television screens or front page headlines. The OAS must do justice on this occasion to those whom history has punished with a much undeserved indifference.

Mr. President of the Council, gentlemen heads of state and government, ambassadors, friends: (?Four) years after the first European set foot on American soil, others, who heard that there was enough gold on this continent to erase their wretched pasts, launched one of the most terrible expeditions ever undertaken by man into the land of dreams. Some visited El Dorado. Never before had they seen anything like it; they saw mountain ranges, rivers, warm weather, cold weather, dispersed communities knowledgeable in astronomy, medicine, agriculture, government system, and their future. Others searched for the seven cities of gold. The last one did not have Columbus' strength and was killed by his own men. There were others who, fearing death more than misery, allowed themselves to be blinded by the vision of a fountain from which clear waters flowed and that would guarantee immortality for anyone who drank from it. Not one of them ever learned that immortality and fortune were at their fingertips, that this immortality and fortune were found in the discovery they helped make. They did not see that gold and time, that wealth and immortality, were nothing more than a mirage, a symbol of something that is only foreign for those incapable of understanding. I am speaking of living in a land that respects freedom, worthy work, spiritual growth, progress, raising of children, rest at the end of the path. That is what the ancient inhabitants of this land meant. They spoke in metaphors of a united hemisphere that could be crossed from one end to the other without feeling oneself a foreigner and where the various cultures enrich one another for the prosperity and well-being of all.

That is the dream. The dream of men like Bolivar, San Martin, Morazan, Hidalgo, Juarez, Marti, [word instinct], and Washington, unites us on this day. After so much isolation, we have finally understood the dream and that dream will always guide our steps.

Thank you. [applause]

Mercosur Telecommunications Commission Approves Accords

PY1609021894 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2033 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Sep [TELAM-SNI]—Members of the Argentine delegation today told TELAM-SNI that Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay came to an agreement in Montevideo today on a series of rules and regulations that will govern telecommunications within the Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

Engineer Miguel Galano, engineering manager of the National Telecommunications Commission, said the regulating framework that will rule the public telecommunications networks is the only matter that is still pending.

Galano participated in the discussions of the Telecommunications Commission of Sub-Group No. 3, Technical Rules and Regulations of the Mercosur, which today, after two years of work, established the definitive framework of rules and regulations for the sector within the Mercosur agreements.

The agreements that were achieved refer to the interconnection of systems in border areas, the planning of frequencies on new wavelengths that have been distributed by the 1992 World Radiocommunications Conference, the coordination of earth stations, and the regulation of new technologies in telecommunications.

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An agreement was also achieved on the coordination of VHF (very high frequency) [three preceding words in English] television stations.

The Argentine representative highlighted the fact that negotiations will continue to obtain loans from the Inter-American Development Bank for the development of joint projects "such as high velocity telecommunications networks and the inter-connection of databases for the administration of the radioelectric spectrum."

The agreements that were achieved today will be submitted within the next few days to the Mercosur to be signed by the foreign and economy ministers of the four member countries, and it is estimated that they will go into effect some 60 days after they have been signed.

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Cuba

Alarcon Interviewed on Immigration Accord

PA1609015994 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0030 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Interview with Ricardo Alarcon, chief negotiator at the immigration talks with the United States and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, by program host Pedro Martinez Pires, Nidia Diaz of GRANMA, Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA, and television reporter Irma Caceres in Havana on the "This Very Day" program—live]

[Text] [Martinez] Good evening, dear television viewers. Television Cubana is about to present at this time an interview with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, the president of the National Assembly, the Cuban parliament. He was the chief of the Cuban delegation that negotiated and signed the immigration agreement in New York City on 9 September. This interview is also being broadcast internationally by Radio Havana Cuba for North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean on the 19-, 25-, and 31-meter bands.

Colleague Nidia Diaz from GRANMA newspaper, Javier Rodriguez from PRENSA LATINA, and Irma Caceres from Television Cubana are here to interview the Cuban negotiator. All three are specialists in international affairs. Without saying more, I will turn this over to the panel and to our guest Nidia Diaz from GRANMA.

[Diaz] Companero Alarcon, it is clear to everyone that the agreement signed between Cuba and the United States in New York commits the U.S. Government to grant a minimum of 20,000 visas per year to those Cuban citizens wishing to emigrate definitely to that territory. Moreover, the United States agreed to facilitate immigration for an additional group of peoples who are on the so- called waiting list. My question is this: Is there any commitment or quota for those Cubans wishing to visit the United States temporarily using tourist visas? That is my first question. My second question is related to this type of traveler. It has to do with the suspension, which has evidently taken place, of the so-called Cuban Adjustment Law. The agreements or the agreement signed in New York obviously have suspended the Cuban Adjustment Law. I ask myself, and I of course ask you, what type of treatment would Cubans receive starting today if they decided to travel to the United States as tourists and who once there decide to stay? Would they receive the privileges granted by the Cuban Adjustment Law or would they be repatriated according to the letter and spirit of the agreement reached in New York?

[Caceres] Excuse me, please. I would like to add something. Companero Alarcon, what would happen to Cubans who travel to other countries besides the United States, as has happened on previous occasions, and take advantage of the situation to travel to the United States?

[Alarcon] If you allow me, I will start with Nidia's second question. The Cuban Adjustment Law is actually still in effect. President Clinton affirmed this when he announced the new policy on 19 August. What has changed is the method of application. We have the law here. It is not a long document, it is almost fits on one piece of paper. In essence, it states that the attorney general is authorized first to admit into the United States and then grant legal resident status—and this is very interesting—to any Cuban, who reached the United States after 1 January 1959. The law was enacted to legalize the status of the [word indistinct], the henchmen, the thieves, and of all those persons who left Cuba illegally, often without a visa. They reached the United States and all were admitted. In practice, this law was designed to apply legal status on a reality that came into being on 1 January. The idea was to admit and accommodate those people. The prerogative was in the hands of the attorney general.

What the United States announced on 19 August is that it has decided to change its policy. The attorney general has said this repeatedly, has reiterated it, and every time she speaks she insists on this. It will no longer authorize the entry of persons who reach the United States illegally.

It is a change in the application of the prerogative which the Cuban Adjustment Law gave the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

For 35 years, without exception, all individuals and persons of Cuban origin, who arrived in the United States by any means, were welcomed in line with the attorney general's decision. Later, their status was legally changed to permanent resident. Now they announced that this policy has changed. President Clinton announced this on 19 August and the agreement we signed specifies this.

According to the agreement, this means that anyone now arriving through irregular means will not receive the benefits of that previous decision that was applied without exception in the past. As for the case of tourists that Irma mentioned, they would travel under normal conditions, not under irregular conditions, but as visitors not immigrants.

The agreement does not address this aspect for a very specific reason. This deals with the first question that Lidia asked. The missing element, which goes beyond the migration issue, is that unfortunately, the United States is maintaining a policy, a practice, a measure that President Clinton announced the next day. On 19 August, he announced a change in the migration policy and on 20 August he announced a number of measures to tighten the blockade against Cuba, to increase illegal radio transmissions, to ban trips of Cuban or Cuban-Americans to visit relatives in Cuba, to ban these kinds

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trips, to halt money transfers to relatives; that is, to limit seriously money transfers that these people make to relatives in Cuba.

Those were measures that Clinton adopted at the beginning of the crisis. We must say that this was a major point of disagreement throughout the talks. The Cuban party insisted that, to be consistent, the United States must scrap those measures adopted on 20 August, because they ran counter to the spirit of the agreement that we were signing, unjustly hurt the interests of many people, and were measures adopted in reaction to a crisis that was being resolved by this agreement. It would have been an clear contradiction to maintain those sanctions against a number of people after the crisis had been resolved.

I also think that time will make it increasingly more difficult to maintain these restrictions. We must recall that the possibility of traveling, transferring money, and sending packages to relatives was a policy applied by two Republican administrations. In other words, the United States had in fact accepted this practice, and I think it was accepted for a very simple reason: There are many people in Florida interested in having such opportunities. Moreover, I think that Cubans or people of Cuban origin in the United States are the only ethnic group, or let us call it national group, residing in the United States, subjected to such restrictions.

The Treasury Department has no idea of how much money a citizen of Salvadoran origin might be transferring today to his family in El Salvador. It has no idea of how many times a North American of Greek origin welcomes a relative from Greece or how many times a person of Turkish origin visits Turkey.

These restrictions are imposed only on Cubans. This is a form of discrimination against a group that is, paradoxically, being lured and encouraged [cultivar]. These measures are really concessions the administration felt was necessary to give that group of counterrevolutionary mafia in Miami to win their support of the new turn in the application of this Cuban Adjustment Law. They were offered this gift on 20 August to encourage them to accept the policy that President Clinton announced on 19 August.

But what remains now? There is the uneasiness, grievances, and disagreement from a large group of Cuban-Americans in Florida whose legitimate interests are being affected.

This is why I do not have a response to Irma's question at this time. There is really no possibility in the future for such trips as long as the 20 August measures are maintained. Again, however, I reiterate that, in terms of today, these measures are so anachronistic, so out-of-place, and so unfair and that they are generating so much discontent and criticism in Florida, I imagine the administration will think things over, and, in light of the fact that the crisis has been overcome, the administration will simply eliminate these restrictions.

[Martinez] Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA.

[Rodriguez] Mr. Alarcon, the background to any negotiations that exist or may exist between the United States and Cuba is evidently the issue of the blockade, given its impact and the hardships it presents to the Cuban people. On this note, several governments, organizations, intellectuals, and journalists have condemned the blockade and asked that it be lifted. To what degree do these accords represent as a step in a process leading to the lifting of the blockade?

[Alarcon] Well, there is a lady [words indistinct] concerned over these agreements. She is a Cuban-born congresswoman who said she fears this agreement may point in that direction.

I would say the following: The agreement per se represents a blow to the policy of blockade. The blockade is not a simple phenomenon. The blockade can be described as some sort of chaos or a jumble of measures and procedures against Cuba adopted one after another in the early years of the revolution.

This agreement is tantamount to cutting off or severing one branch of the blockade tree and to normalizing one aspect of ties between the two countries. This, coupled with the U.S. commitment to not accept people who arrive through illegal means and the commitment to adopt effective measures to oppose and prevent the use of violence—namely, the hijacking of aircraft and boats and their forceful deviation—represent an important change in this part of U.S. hostility toward Cuba as expressed through immigration.

There is another aspect that cannot be ignored. At this moment in the United States there is a growing movement questioning U.S. policy toward Cuba. Newspaper editorials from practically all newspapers—from conservative and right-wing newspapers such as the WASHINGTON TIMES and the WALL STREET JOURNAL, to liberal newspapers such as THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WASHINGTON POST—not to mention a series of other publications and television media, are questioning U.S. policy on Cuba. They are insisting on the need to change that policy and to begin a frank, just dialogue on equal terms with Cuba, as well as insisting on ending the blockade policy.

Recently, no Senate or House political leader has made statements expressing different views. Within this context, despite the fact [words indistinct] there are no diplomatic relations, we were able to meet under the principles of mutual respect and equality and, in turn, resolve a problem. We were able to untangle a part of the abnormal situation of hostility that has prevailed in the relations between the two countries. We have reached an accord that involves a multiplication of joint efforts. The revision of each measure involves coordination and

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cooperative actions between the two parties to implement the different aspects of the accord. This is a foundation for the development of normal relations in one area of bilateral relations.

As the commander in chief explained not long ago, we must not ignore the fact that for three decades the immigration issue became one of the U.S. tools to destabilize and undermine the revolution. When they reversed their policy... [pauses] this 180-degree change involves the beginning of a new period—a period that all of us must hope will lead to the abandonment of the destabilizing and subversive practices of the past. In fact, this is a modification of that policy and will contribute to the position of those who are demanding an overall change. It is not coincidental that the agreement was published on Friday and, on Saturday, THE NEW YORK TIMES published an editorial asking the administration to continue the dialogue and negotiate with Cuba on other problems.

[Martinez] There is another topic, I think. All protocol has been broken here. We must still pose another question. What will happen with these 20,000 persons and those on the so-called waiting list? How are they going to leave if the number of flights has been reduced?

[Alarcon] They must grant the visas. This is a very clear commitment—at least for 20,000 people, in addition to those on the so-called waiting list and all those who have blood relatives who are U.S. citizens and want to travel. These people are part of the legal quota. For these people to be able to travel, more flights than the number being authorized by the United States are necessary. Imagine what would happen. Planes would arrive in Miami carrying permanent immigrants. These planes, on their way back to Havana, could not bring back an old woman wishing to see her grandson. A person in Miami could not see a relative in Cuba. This abnormal situation would become more incomprehensible, more difficult for people of Cuban origin living in Florida. That is why we must insist that the trips, money transfers, and tourism be dealt with in terms that are not strictly migratory in nature. These realities are constantly being dealt with. Flights must be increased. There is going to be a market for such flights. It has been determined that immigrants would have a ticket from Cuba to the United States, but these prohibitions are oppressive, the people are humiliated. The few travelers who could take these flights [words indistinct] there is evidently space available while this absurd prohibition exists.

[Rodriguez] It would adversely affect tour operators?

[Alarcon] Of course, but I think the most serious aspect is the way it hurts people. Up until now, the United States has adopted measures to obstruct Cuba. Its purpose is clear. It is against the revolution, against our social project, and against the Cuban people, the Cubans who live here in Cuba. These were the objectives adopted before 20 August. One of the characteristics of this measure is, however, that the legitimate interests of tens of thousands of Cuban-Americans living in Florida are adversely affected. That is the difference between this measure and the Torricelli Law and other blockade actions against Cuba. There are more and more persons in the Cuban-American community, particularly in Miami, who are going to question and oppose this measure. They are being put in an uncomfortable situation by members of this mafia, who obtained this great victory, quote unquote, and got this U.S. Administration to give them what even Reagan could not.

[Caceres] Now that we are on this point, Companero Alarcon, could you please explain the document when it mentions persons who are eligible? It also refers to qualified persons. Also, about the waiting list you mentioned, what does it establish?

[Alarcon] There is a series of terms that come from U.S. immigration laws and they are obvious. No country in the world is obligated to accept any person as an immigrant; that is the right of any state. For this reason, people have to request a visa and it is either granted or rejected. There is a law that establishes a series of priorities, they call them preferences. These preferences are based on family relations such as fathers and sons or husbands and wives. That is the highest preference. The highest priority is given to these type of relations. The preference categories decrease depending on the closeness of the family ties. There are other categories that have less priority than the first ones I mentioned. A person is also eligible when he meets certain criteria. They ask all immigrant hopefuls to submit a health certificate, x-rays, for example, to check their lungs. They have other criteria dealing with criminal records, for example. This is the usual information requested by any government. A person may be included in a high preference category, he may have a wife living in the United States. He may also meet other requirements, such as a proper health certificate, for example. In this case he would eligible, but that is not enough for the United States to grant him a visa because people with these characteristics are living in other countries of the world as well. There are huge numbers living in Third World countries who are trying to emigrate to developed countries. I have a little Dominican weekly newspaper here. You can see this news item. It states that on 16 (?May) a total of 31 boats crossed the Mona Passage on their way to Puerto Rico. On 31 May, the number of Cuban rafters on their way to Florida was possibly much lower, but little mention is made of this situation because there is no manipulation of the immigration topic with regard to the Dominican Republic. But just as there are people trying to reach the United States illegally, there are many others who are trying to do it legally.

Thus, there is a sort of competition based on the order in which one filed a request, when a request was made to the world, the entire planet, and within the global limits established by the U.S. Congress, a ceiling that cannot be exceeded throughout the entire year for the whole world.

That is the origin of the waiting list. These are people who meet all the requirements, who could receive a visa

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right now, but who must wait, some for years, many years, and some even die before receiving the famous visa. The result is that a certain number of Cubans are placed on what they call a waiting list.

To the United States this means that people who are illegal, who could receive authorization, who would have no problem in getting visas, except that they must wait their turn. They have to wait an unknown number of months or years for their turn. In my opinion, this is an important aspect of this agreement. In addition to the 20,000 visas, they committed themselves to handle and settle all cases on the waiting list within one year; that is, before 9 September 1995—from the moment we signed the agreement until 9 September next year.

There is also another aspect that I think is interesting. It is contained in this (?paragraph) of the legal [word indistinct]. Besides those immediate relatives—those who have preference according to the law—and those who are on the waiting list, they have committed themselves, through other procedures, other legal attributions, to guarantee at least 20,000 visas each year.

This is interesting because if one assesses what the fulfillment of this commitment means—and we hope that it will be fully complied with because this is very easily verified, because using simple arithmetic we can confirm whether more or less than 20,000 traveled by the end of the year—during the past 35 years, in practice [words indistinct] there were mechanisms beyond migration ones. The attorney general had the power to welcome all those who arrived illegally without exception. Meanwhile, over here they were granting regular visas with incredible slowness.

They are now committed to using those mechanisms that are outside the migration law to grant not only preferential visas and visas to those on the waiting list, but also to use the attorney general's power to grant permits even to those not on the waiting list.

[Rodriguez] Alarcon, is that a high number?

[Alarcon] This must imply that there will be a certain unknown number of persons with immediate relatives for whom the immigration law will be strictly enforced. There will be others on the waiting list, but they are separate [words indistinct] immediate relatives, but they will receive them; there are perhaps not even 20,000 in this situation. They are committed to achieving at least 20,000 using the other powers. That is [words indistinct] correct, I think that the Interests Section made an announcement the other day.

Everything indicates that not only those who have immediate relatives in the United States will be able to obtain visas, but also other people through the other legal powers.

It is curious that legal instruments used in the past to justify, promote, and encourage illegal emigration, and I think that [words indistinct] the agreement specifies that they will now be used to guarantee a higher and more flexible number of legal emigrants. I think this is precisely the appropriate path for eliminating the risks and pressure of illegal emigration.

[Diaz] I also wanted to ask you about an issue that people in the streets are talking about. The agreement also calls for the voluntary repatriation of Cubans who are currently at the Guantanamo Naval Base and in the so-called refugee camps that the United States has established, given that the United States refuses to process them as possible immigrants if they do not [as heard] come from those camps. My question is: Under what status would those Cubans return to our island?

[Alarcon] The answer to that question is that, when we reach an agreement, if we reach an agreement on the return of certain Cuban citizens, they would be allowed to return exactly as the other citizens of this country did and have the same duties and rights as those people who are not at Guantanamo Naval Base.

I would like to add that the United States has very firmly stated that it will not admit any of those who are at the detention centers, whether at Guantanamo or Panama or any other installation in the United States. This is a very firm and definitive decision they have stated several times. It has a very clear logic behind it. If they process and allow the legal immigration of those who tried to achieve it illegally, it would constitute a means of encouraging illegal migration.

This was a decision they made earlier, and President Clinton announced it on 19 August. Now it is a part of this agreement. This means there is a commitment between the two nations. In turn, not only will the United States fulfill its own decision not to admit people trying to enter illegally, disregarding U.S. laws and warnings against such attempts, but it has now been formalized as part of this agreement. Any change or restatement of this issue would have to be the subject of negotiations and an agreement between the two parties. To drift away from this principle could jeopardize all of the objectives of this agreement. It would be an encouragement of illegal migration.

The issue of voluntary repatriation also is part of the agreement. We agreed that this will be subject to negotiations and will be arranged through diplomatic channels. We did not include, as a matter of principle, the situation of those citizens who have seen the shocking reality of going to hell when they thought they were going to paradise; now, these people perhaps have a different view of what they left behind in Cuba [words indistinct] those in Guantanamo.

We must keep in mind that these people were very determined to migrate. If they are at a detention center now, it is because they were frustrated in their attempt. These are not Cubans asking to return to their homeland, but just the opposite. They want to exercise their right or their aspiration to leave Cuba and emigrate. Something

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happened along the way that prevented them from achieving their goal. We must keep all elements and all factors in mind and continue discussing and talking about this issue. I believe the situation will gradually become easier to handle and more manageable in the same degree to which this agreement is truly, thoroughly, and completely implemented, and in the same degree to which we are able to leave behind, not only the events of August, but also the 35- year-old policy. They have agreed to abandon it completely. As things progress along this new path, it will become easier to address pending issues, such as the people who are currently being held at several detention centers or concentration camps in a more reasonable and logical way.

[Rodriguez] Mr. Alarcon, I have several of the latest items we received at PRENSA LATINA just before I left. There are statements by Lee Hamilton, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives; Mexican author Carlos Fuentes; and OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, the brilliant new secretary general, that is. They all point in the same direction. They state the need to continue these talks between the United States and Cuba and to find a solution to the dispute between the two countries. Under what conditions would Cuba realistically consider, or what would the circumstances have to be for Cuba to resume broader-based negotiations? To be more specific: What conditions would Cuba require for the talks to resume in a broader fashion and with a more extensive agenda?

[Alarcon] For our part, we have expressed our willingness to talk on several occasions. The only condition we have is that the talks must be taken seriously and be based on the respect for our national sovereignty and independence. This means we will only talk and negotiate on an equal footing, as we did in New York. We proved that we can get results that are beneficial and useful for both sides. What is missing, I would say, is the willingness of the other party—in other words, the administration's ability to do what many people are suggesting. I think the tendency is toward what you have suggested, as many international figures, organizations, and other nations have suggested. The fact is that the United States is the only one pursuing such a policy. Clinton clearly said on 19 August that the United Stats is alone in this policy of isolating and blockading Cuba. This is a fact.

There are increasingly more people who are proposing this new approach in the United States. They favor dialogue, negotiations, and the elimination of the blockade. There are increasingly more people with this position, and they are presenting it in a stronger and clearer manner. [Word indistinct] mention Hamilton; this is Hamilton's second or third important statement within the past two weeks, including a joint article he wrote and published with Senator Pell, who is the president of a similar commission in the Senate. The article proposed precisely this, and it had great repercussions in the United States.

[Words indistinct] and look in all of your cables and see for yourself. Look for a statement, discounting ones from Torricelli and the Miami mafia. Look for a statement by a serious figure in U.S. politics, the Congress, or media, who has recently asserted that he favors reinforcing the blockade or maintaining the blockade policy. For each foolish statement by Torricelli or the mafia people, there are dozens of contrary statements and editorials every day. Furthermore, it is a [word indistinct]. This was a serious problem for the North Americans. It was an important problem, and we were able to resolve it in approximately four days of respectful discussions, starting with respect for our country's sovereignty and independence.

[Caceres] Along these same lines, how can we interpret the way many of those personalities or organizations mention the blockade and, at the same time, demand certain concessions from Cuba? How do you interpret this? How are these two issues brought together?

[Alarcon] Well, some people in other countries handle this topic in a totally unacceptable manner. A legal violation cannot be the source of a law. A crime is not the source of a law. The blockade, the attempts to suffocate a nation and bring about sickness and death, and the flagrant violations of the most basic of rights of an entire nation cannot be the source of an advantage for the party that imposes such a policy. We are being more than generous when we express our willingness to talk and discuss the blockade. In reality [words indistinct] if we are going to strictly stick to the law, the only thing they have to do is lift the blockade and, period, eliminate it—period.

[Martinez] And, comply with the UN agreement.

[Alarcon] [Words indistinct] definitely, do what the international community has asked them to do—something that has been suggested to them by all of their allies and by I do not know how many organizations of all types worldwide. Some people, some politicians up there, after they are forced to take a stand against the blockade because it is the right thing to do, and because every one else is doing it, still advance unacceptable opinions and observations.

They demand that in exchange for the lifting of the blockade Cuba must make certain changes, certain concessions. For example, they sometimes talk about measures in the economic field—the so-called liberalization measures, economic liberalization measures. My God, if they are democrats, they ought to listen to the labor unions in their own countries and listen to their own people. There is a great debate going on, and there is great opposition to these measures precisely because of the social consequences which the neoliberal policies have brought about in many places.

I was recently looking at [words indistinct] a cartoon in New York. It was in an English newspaper—a U.S. newspaper. The cartoon shows Cuba and the United

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States, and the latter is saying: I am a world power. Why do I have to negotiate with you? What do you have that I do not have? In turn, Cuba replies: Universal health care, for example.

This simple thing is a product of a society that can serve as a model to be copied. The other is a society that is currently discussing, among other social tragedies, to see whether it can guarantee medical attention to millions [words indistinct]. There are now 40 million people who do not have any medical protection [words indistinct] the Cuban population and, a similar amount who have [words indistinct] but do not have enough to pay the bill at any hospital. Well, I believe those are not exactly the changes we should make or that the Cubans want. This is not an example of democracy, because democracy is the authority of the people and the participation of the people in their government. Nevertheless, [word indistinct] those who do not have the right or the opportunity to make an appointment at a hospital. This situation occurs in the United States—in the richest and most powerful country in the world. We will see similar situations if we view a few other democracies in the world.

I believe that... [pauses] There are things, especially from the Latin American point of view, there are things we cannot toy with because they have cost blood, a lot of our people's blood on countless occasions. These things are the principle of nonintervention and respect for a country's sovereignty. Logically, Cuba, which is willing to negotiate and is open to dialogue and debate among equals, also will continue to defend, as I am sure many people on this planet will ask us to do, the principles with which there can be no toying: primarily, respect for our independence, integrity, and the sovereignty of our fatherland.

When this is done, only when these principles are applied, will we be able to achieve results. We need to make others respect these principles. I believe that [words indistinct] those people whose views may conflict with our political system. That is their prerogative. I also have views that disagree with other systems. Sometimes, I do not even like to visit some countries because I believe that the people do not have even basic rights; for example, to get medical attention without first discussing with the doctor whether one has the money to pay for the service and how one will pay. That does not mean I can say that I will not go to the United States until it guarantees the fundamental right of people to a decent living standard, protection, and medical care. This would obviously be the same as violating the principles of relations between states.

It is true that they prefer such a system, a system in which only the rich can afford health care and millions of people die because they have no health benefits. It is their right to prefer that system, but a [words indistinct] would ask those millions of U.S. citizens [word indistinct] country to see what is their view regarding the Cuban social system in which Cuba represents hope for many people. Then, we would know if they would like us to change their course or vice versa; that is, we continue trying to adjust ourselves to the problems we face in the current world and to implement measures necessary to deal with this current world, but without giving up what this country represents and will always represent for millions of people around the world.

[Diaz] Comrade Alarcon, following this line of thought, do you believe this agreement signed in New York with all its potential for dialogue between Cuba and the United States could undermine the influence of right-wing extremist groups in Miami—the so-called Miami mafia—on the current U.S. Administration, or will they, in their isolation, feel forced to apply more pressure for an inconsistent and contradictory policy as in the past?

[Rodriguez] I want to add that, yes, to some extent, these right-wing extremist groups have somewhat institutionalized their economic power within American society and have used this precisely to attack Cuba and pressure the U.S. Government. I would like to know whether or not you believe this situation, in the wake of the new developments, has been overcome. In other words, do you believe those people have truly lost power?

[Martinez] As long as we are adding more to the question, what role will the November elections play?

[Alarcon] Any time we speak of international analysts such as Pedro and the other ones here, there is always the mention of the famous movement that is used as a point of reference or justification. There must be a relation if [words indistinct] it is always considered whenever politicians are preparing to adopt certain positions as we mentioned before. The declarations of U.S. political leaders are sometimes related, Javier, to the November elections, but they are advocating a lifting of the blockade. Congressman Rangel and Congressman Serrano—two of the most active New York congressmen who want to lift the blockade—have been reelected as candidates of the Democratic Party. It seems that these groups are concerned that this position may have a reverse effect on the candidacies of Rangel and Serrano.

In both cases, the Cuban-American Foundation tried to promote candidates willing to run against them, but in both cases, those candidates did poorly. I have a newspaper clipping here from [word indistinct] and they seem to be very pleased with the agreement. I believe this is a negative perception of the migration agreement. Here is a picture of several mafiosos venting their feelings against the agreement. I believe, however, that one could say that the U.S. Administration has, as we say in Cuba, been taken for a ride by these groups of supposedly influential people in Florida's Cuban-American community.

In exchange for the support they initially gave President Clinton's new policy, as you can see here, they are no longer supporting it, they are criticizing it. There is a negative perception of the immigration accord. These persons were given the absurd, irrational pleasure of

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punishing Cuban-Americans by prohibiting them from traveling to their country, from visiting their relatives, from sending them certain items, and from doing what other persons in the United States do. By the way, if we discount everyone in the United States except for the American Indians, then everyone came from another country. Everyone in that country has a close or remote family tie with people in other countries in the world.

Regulations and controls exist only for the Cubans. There are even discriminatory restrictions such as the ones adopted on 20 August. Neither Reagan nor Bush decided to take such measures, and they must have had their reasons. The President, as the U.S. media states, [words indistinct] these persons, adopted these measures. I believe, however, that these measures will be dropped because, after all, they were measures adopted in the context of an crisis that has already been overcome. Those who asked for consideration are already attacking the agreement. They are already criticizing the administration's immigration policy. In addition, the alleged interests of that community and of the administration will face increasing opposition from its victims. The victims number tens of thousands. If they start thinking about November, I do not think they are going to have many votes among the Cubans who are not allowed to communicate with their relatives. I believe it is crazy to use this mechanism to punish one part of the population living in the United States as a means to get more votes. Whoever came up with that advice was really out of his mind.

[Caceres] I would like to talk about the letter of the agreement. The topic of the excludables. How was it dealt with in the agreement?

[Alarcon] Well, in reality, to be frank with you, we broached this issue, but the space given to it in our talks conforms with the space given to it in the text of the agreement—that is, a mere two lines. The negotiations covered weightier issues. The focal points of this agreement are really illegal migration; measures to impede illegal migration; violence, hijackings, and the like; and normal legal migration. On this issue, the text says that we have agreed to keep on talking about the return of Cuban citizens who have been excluded by the United States.

It is a topic, that as you know, was discussed in depth in the previous agreement ten years ago. Cuba honored it completely. We agreed to draft a list of persons, who were correctly identified. We agreed they would be returned to our country. All those they sent were received in Cuba and were accepted into our society. Others on that list were not sent to us because they had cases pending in U.S. courts. That is not our fault. We did honor the 1984 agreement. There has not been a single case of an excludable person, whom they would like to send us and who has not been received by Cuba. The one who did not fulfill the agreement in matters of immigration was the United States. It is a problem they have to take care of, because for 10 years they did not grant the visas they had promised. They, of course, are quite worried, especially with the return of the so-called [words indistinct]. We are always willing to hold talks on any topic based on respect and equality. That is the only thing we agreed to do. We agreed to keep talking. It is not the first time we talked about this matter.

[Martinez] What was the atmosphere during the talks, Alarcon? There is talk that evidently the situation in 1994 is not the same as in 1984, not only because of the content of the agreement, but also because of the context, the atmosphere, and the reaction of U.S. and international public opinion. I believe it would be interesting to listen to this evaluation. The agreement in 1984 had few repercussions, but these agreements now have had global repercussions.

[Alarcon] Not only that, but I remember that the talks held with them, such as the one in 1984 [words indistinct] but the results of the negotiations were learned when the agreement was finally published. In this case, I lost count of how many of your colleagues I saw every day.

Every meeting was announced beforehand. Everyone knew that at such-and-such a time the meeting would be at the U.S. mission, and the next day it would be at such-and-such a time at the Cuban mission. Every time we arrived there was a swarm of photographers, reporters, and others waiting for us. It was funny, because no stone was left unturned. Every day, you reported at what time the meeting began, what time it ended, the length of the meeting, and so on. We did all of this in front of a million witnesses. They were not inside the conference room with us, but they were at the doors of the building through which we passed each and every time. Every day there were comments, opinions, and speculation in the media, because they were following every step of the negotiations. The process had a such a high degree of openness and journalistic coverage that I cannot remember any other case quite like it. This extended far beyond New York, considering European newspapers and South American television all covered the story. Honestly, everyone was closely following the progress of these talks.

Logically, the comments came after the agreement was signed, and not only in the United States but outside the United States as well. I received messages from a great many places in the United States as well as many from other countries, from people praising the agreement and congratulating Cuba. Everyone was following the negotiations step by step.

[Martinez] The three times President Fidel Castro spoke, he got media coverage in the United States. These appearances came before the negotiations began and played a definite role in the middle of this crisis.

[Alarcon] Last Monday, we were chatting with several editors at a U.S. magazine. One of the people there noted

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this exact thing. This person saw Castro's last interview from Havana in its entirety and said that it had been a pleasant surprise to hear Castro. This person said she also heard comments from many other people who had seen the commander in chief on television. He was not the stereotype they have fabricated and, as I believe, a stereotype repeated by certain members of the media.

This is important, because he was addressing the Cuban people on this program. Those who saw the interview in the United States could see that. It was not a presentation directed at the United States. It was Fidel speaking to his people in Cuba and analyzing a problem. This magazine journalist told me she was very impressed by the maturity, reflection, analysis, and self-control he displayed, which in no way conformed with the stereotype the hostile media have tried to create within the United States. The interview was broadcast in its entirety all across the country, and millions of U.S. citizens were able to see it.

However, Pedro, I must say that I cannot remember a time when there was so much publicity regarding such a story. Cuba was on the frontpage of every newspaper every day for the two weeks the talks lasted. In most cases there were also editorials or articles on the Cuban issue, the embargo, or on crisis in general. In addition to this, our delegation saw it was necessary at times to offer additional explanations and, in turn, held several contacts with the media. I was forever talking with television stations, radio stations, and print media. Not only did I give interviews, but so did many other members of the delegation, because we could not keep up with the demand. We spread ourselves among the media, because the demand was overwhelming.

[Martinez] All three of you tried to jump in that last time. Ladies first.

[Diaz] Time is running short, and all of us want to ask you so much. I myself have two questions. The text of the agreement states that Cuba agrees to prevent people from leaving the country aboard unsafe vessels. This has led people to say that this covers unsafe vessels only, not any other vessels. I have heard members of Miami's right-wing community saying this. Is this simply a matter of semantics?

[Alarcon] That was the word we used in both English and Spanish. The idea is to fulfill the commitments that are stated in the agreement. The two governments will prevent risky journeys and will apply effective measures to prevent unsafe departures. This is a legitimate concern. We are worried about people setting out to sea under inappropriate navigational conditions. That is one issue. The other issue is illegal migration.

You can see that there are three things in this paragraph here: unsafe departures, improper routes, and attempts to migrate illegally, which means not following normal migratory procedures. We must prevent this under a humane and reasonable setting; please do not forget that our country has more than 3,400 km of coastline. The United States is aware that there are limits to our ability to completely control what happens all along our coastline. Millions of illegal immigrants continuously arrive in the United States. None of them are Cubans. The Cubans have the benefits of the Cuban Adjustment Act, so none of them are Cuban, but there are millions of people who have entered illegally from other countries.

And these people have arrived there not because the governments of these countries have promoted or encouraged emigration, but because it is not easy to prevent illegal migration. But this is our commitment, and we must also say we have fulfilled it with a high level of effectiveness. As has been reported, the problem has practically disappeared within the term we announced without resorting to violence or one single incident. Doing this—and I want to insist on this—is what the text of the agreement established. We have fundamentally used persuasion to discourage emigration.

Now, this concept of unsafe (?navigation) or risky departure is a concept associated with certain arguments contained in international law—namely, authorities must prevent or take action to prevent the departure of a boat if it does not meet appropriate standards. This is our view regarding this aspect, although the text clearly establishes both parties will do all that they can to avoid illegal migration, thorough persuasion in our case, and by not granting more privileges for their part. Both parties will achieve this by adopting effective measures against acts of violence and by promoting legal, smooth, orderly, much broader, and greater migration than before, and this will be done in light of the incorrect interpretation and violation of the previous accord as they applied it. The coming together of all of these aspects leads to the possibility of having normal relations in this area.

[Martinez] There is no doubt the U.S. commitment to take effective action against the hijacking of aircraft and boats is important.

[Rodriguez] Now I have a question. Many people have spoken to me on the streets about this issue. Regardless of the agreement reached, when considering the permanence of thousands of Cubans at the base at Guantanamo with little or no possibility to enter the United States, according to what the U.S. Government itself has said, and considering the uncertainty of their future in this case, does this not pose a risk to Cuba and a problem for Cuba, as well as a risk for overall peace in the region?

[Alarcon] As you know, Javier, from the first moment the base was used as a concentration camp for Haitians, we expressed our protest. This is a violation of our sovereignty, not to mention the violation represented by the very existence of this base. They are using the base for purposes that have nothing to do with the famous, illegal, and anachronistic accord that created the base in the first place.

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Nevertheless, I think that both parties should continue to look at this issue carefully. There is the possibility of voluntary return—something on which we commented earlier. There is also the decision adopted by the United States on 19 August, which is part of the bilateral accord, of not allowing the entry into U.S. territory of people picked up on the high seas. They may have selected a different place to send these people. In fact, some of them are being transferred to other areas. The use of the base at Guantanamo to house refugees is something we cannot agree to and we must reject, as we have done earlier.

Still, the fact that these people are being excluded from the possibility of being processed for legal immigration into the United States—those on this base or elsewhere—is in keeping with the decision involving the change in U.S. immigration policy and the bilateral accord, because granting advantages to people being detained for having violated U.S. immigration laws would be tantamount to promoting similar actions of this nature. This runs against U.S. interests, and it is perfectly understandable.

I think that it is perfectly understandable that they established a categorical and firm [words indistinct] a total rejection, even of the idea of considering the processing of these persons. There is also the possibility that they might return to their country through an agreement that we would have to review on a case-by-case basis.

I say, however, that in the case of those people and the problem that you mentioned, the most important thing is that [words indistinct] an agreement. So long as there was no agreement and the problem persisted with people trying to come in illegally—although the United States insistently stated that it would not allow this—so long as this situation existed, risks and complications were greater.

We now have an agreement. I think that the main task now is that it should be rigorously implemented, that the two parties fully comply with it. To the extent that we advance on this issue—I think I already said this—we will leave behind that period of illegality, manipulation, and the subversive use of the migration (?issue). We should establish the groundwork to ensure that certain issues that seem very complicated today [words indistinct] find solution to some of these problems.

It would have been preferable, however, to find a more appropriate place to retain persons who are not willing to [words indistinct] their territory. A military base is not the appropriate place for [words indistinct] because what they do is to turn them into concentration (?camps), and logically, accompanied by a number of rejections and complaints that [words indistinct] have nothing to do with what those people had in mind when they tried to emigrate. This is an issue that I hope we will be able to discuss in the future. In order to do that, it is indispensable that everything be complied with, that there be no reversions, that incidents at sea not be repeated. In other words, there should be strict compliance with the agreement between our governments [words indistinct] 24 October. Thus, there is period between September and October during which we must reach an agreement, confirm dates, etc. This must be done before 24 October.

[Diaz] I want to ask one last question. Your years as a diplomat in the United States give added value to your assessments and analyses. Based on that and on your experiences in New York in the past few days and based on your monitoring of the media, do you think that in the United States there already exists a willingness and sufficient political maturity among the most influential politicians within the U.S. Administration to ensure that the end of the century will also see an end to the Cuban-U.S. conflict?

[Alarcon] One of the things that a person who has some experience in politics learns is that predictions in politics are even riskier than in forecasting the weather. I would not dare to set a deadline. I would say that the idea of ending this conflict before the end of the century could be accomplished. I do not want to make predictions, but undoubtedly there are elements of change, of rethinking among many people. Their world is also changing.

It is increasingly difficult to convince (?someone) to continue applying measures against a small country, like Cuba, measures that were adopted in the middle of the Cold War, within the context of an East-West confrontation—as it was called then—a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, which does not now exist. Thus, it is more absurd day after day to persist on this path. This is why I think there is evidently a radical change, a wide-ranging change, with regard to how this issue is being dealt with by an increasingly large and important group of personalities and social segments of the United States.

If we add the world environment—which I have mentioned on several occasions—and that no one else shares that position [words indistinct] the U.S. President said nobody has done so much as we have against the Cuban Government. And it has almost always been completely isolated [words indistinct] they are a power but with regard to this issue, their policy failed, and the most intelligent thing to do is to review it, and the sooner the better.

[Caceres] There was much speculation during the meetings that the head of the U.S. delegation and you met privately. What do you have to say?

[Alarcon] [Words indistinct] secret, right?

[Caceres] I allow you to interpret that. [laughs]

[Alarcon] There was nothing secret, not even during the time we were meeting [words indistinct] for 45 minutes or I think it was 50 minutes one day, because I checked my watch [words indistinct] is a regular practice in this kind of talks to be able to be more frank, to discuss issues

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with greater freedom, instead of holding the meeting with all the delegation members present. By the way, there were many North Americans, a large delegation. That implies that discussions with 15-20 persons virtually [words indistinct] exchanges between the two delegations, but it was not to discuss anything secret, but to find more easily and sincerely possible solutions to a difficult aspect through a discussion, but [words indistinct] the time that we were meeting.

[Martinez] One last thing. Does Alarcon think that the solution to all of this is to continue to hold talks, negotiations, and discussions?

[Alarcon] The solution is first, that we Cubans must persevere in our nationwide effort to resist, work, and dedicate [words indistinct] discuss with seriousness and respect when the adversary is respected, when one is facing an adversary who is able to stand on his own feet and with his head held high. That is the main thing. We must also be flexible and open to discussion but always within that strict framework of respect for a people who long ago won the right to be respected, at least as much as those who are most respected.

[Martinez] Thank you, Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly, the Cuban Parliament, and head of the delegation to the negotiations in New York. Thanks to all of you here who have been so good; namely, Nidia Diaz of GRANMA, Javier Rodriguez of PRENSA LATINA, and Irma Caceres of the television for coming here to discuss these agreements that are so important and so positive between Cuba and the United States. Thank you, Alarcon, for having come and have given so much time to us.

Miami Correspondent Views Haiti Invasion

FL1509151494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Marcos Castellon, independent journalist and U.S. citizen based in Miami, by Maria Elena Alonso Serveto in the studio; from the "Doing Radio" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Castellon] Good morning. We have another thing in common with Havana: It is raining in Miami, too. Today I can tell you that the State Department believes that implementation of the agreement reached in New York between Cuba and the United States is going well, at least in the opinion of spokesman Michael McCurry who stated that there are signs that the Cuban Government intends to comply with the compromises made during the New York talks. The U.S. press reports that only a few rafters have been gathering on the beaches of Havana since Monday night, and on Tuesday 13 September, the U.S. Coast Guard rescued only 138 people, which no doubt indicates a clear decrease when compared with the approximately 1,000 a day rescued on recent days.

In addition, it is interesting that the United States, which stressed that the agreements went into effect on the same day they were signed last week, besides acknowledging that Cuba is complying with them, needs to admit that the United States is not yet ready to comply with the other fundamental part of the agreement regarding the issuance of visas in the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

[Alonso] Today, the Cuban Government precisely informs international public opinion that the massive departures have stopped, through exhortation and persuasion, with no dead or injured, and without accidents. This agrees with the information you are giving us.

We would also like to know: There has been information from Miami about extreme measures being implemented at Miami Airport regarding people traveling to Cuba.

[Castellon] Yes, since the new measures, which restrict money remittances and reduce the number of flights to Cuba, went into effect, there are Customs and Treasury Department authorities at the Miami Airport. They are checking passengers traveling to Cuba, especially Cubans who have visited relatives in Miami and are returning home. They have taken and confiscated thousands of dollars in some cases, which is being carried by some of these people in hidden places, perhaps not with the intention of hiding the money, but simply because it was legal to carry it up until now, with some limitations.

It has also been reported that some passengers are being strip searched. Of course, the authorities have the right to search them to ensure that people are complying with the law. However, this indicates how harsh they are about matters not directly related to the illegal immigration situation discussed in New York. The Cuban delegation insisted during the talks that those measures, which were adopted in a hurry at the last minute by President Clinton, under the influence of certain sectors who do not have family ties in Cuba, were not justified. Yet, the measures were kept and are being implemented, and Cubans in Miami are suffering the same consequences as Cubans on the Island.

Cuba has taken steps in recent years to improve this kind of relations by issuing more visas, reducing the age limit for travel, etc. However, the United States is doing the opposite, making this difficult, sad situation harder, so that people cannot go to visit relatives, thereby interfering in family relations, with a definite political objective.

[Unidentified reporter] I am curious: Has the press in Miami reported on this situation that is taking place at the airport?

[Castellon] Yes, it has been reported. It is a situation that many people do not understand because aside from ideological or political reasons, family ties involve people who do not need to sympathize with the Revolution or the Cuban Government, but who have the legitimate interest of wanting to help their relatives in Cuba during these difficult times, who have humane

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interest in visiting and embracing relatives. This should be a normal situation, but unfortunately, normal relations between Cuba and the United States have not been possible for many years, and Cubans on both sides have been trapped in the middle.

[Alonso] I would like to discuss another topic: It seems that the military option in Haiti is imminent; perhaps is a matter of days, or even hours. A Dominican colleague was telling me this morning that in Santo Domingo they expect the invasion this coming weekend. Maneuvers are taking place. It is said that the United States already counts 17 nations in its multinational task force, and strategists in the Pentagon are even saying that this military intervention should be easy. What information do you have?

[Castellon] Yes, Haiti's invasion seems imminent. Tomorrow at 0900 President Clinton will appear on television, and it is expected that he will prepare U.S. public opinion for this invasion. No ultimatum has yet been issued to the Haitian Military Council. However, there is no doubt that military action will take place, because special forces have being training and are getting ready for combat aboard aircraft carriers and other U.S. craft sailing in the Caribbean. It is expected that they will begin capturing vital objectives when the invasion forces land. Initially, it would be U.S. forces, then later on, when the situation is under control—which should happen very easily due to the organization and power of the U.S. Army when compared to the forces of the little Caribbean Nation of Haiti—then the other measures to maintain peace would be implemented, with the participation of forces from other countries.

[Alonso] However, it is said that one of the obstacles encountered by the U.S. Government in proceeding with this invasion is public opinion, which opposes this alternative. What do you think?

[Castellon] I believe that they are taking public opinion into consideration. However, it might not be an obstacle. The history of our continent shows a permanent policy of intervention by the United States, and on many occasions—even in recent times—this policy has opposed public opinion, such as in the cases of Grenada, Panama, Santo Domingo in 1965, and Haiti in 1915. Public opinion is taken into account, but is not determinant. Furthermore, the President has the power to order this intervention without Congress' approval, and he can go ahead despite the increased opposition of U.S. public opinion, which does not want any bloodshed, especially the blood of young enlisted American soldiers.

[Alonso] Thank you, Castellon.

Clinton Offers Aid, Amnesty to Cedras, Francois

FL1509161494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] The NEW YORK TIMES revealed today that President William Clinton is offering to help Haitian military who decide to leave power. General Raoul Cedras; Michel Francois, Port-au-Prince police chief; and Philippe Biamby, chief of the General Staff, would receive transportation, visas, and a host nation, as well as authorization to withdraw monies from currently frozen bank accounts. They would also receive the guarantee that they would not be prosecuted in Haiti or in any other nation.

Havana Radio Cites Seaga, Clinton on Haiti

FL1609124094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1152 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] The Haitian military junta has offered to step down to avoid an invasion of that country by the United States and its allies. The announcement was made on the evening of 15 September by former Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga, who claims to have been contacted by Port-au-Prince. Seaga stated to a U.S. press agency that the Haitian military leaders have offered to resign if they can reach an agreement that would avoid the invasion of that country and if they are promised that at least 600 military leaders would not be subject to retaliation. He stated that he had been contacted by a close friend of General Raoul Cedras, the Haitian strong man, and that he had transmitted the proposal to Lacy Wright, the U.S. charge in Kingston.

Michael McCurry, U.S. State Department spokesman, did not confirm or deny Seaga's declarations. During his televised speech on 16 September, President Bill Clinton gave the military an ultimatum to abandon power if they did not want to be forced out by a multinational intervention force. In his first reaction, General Cedras stated that he was ready to fight and die for Haiti. Clinton's ultimatum did not give a time limit, but governmental sources quoted by THE WASHINGTON POST, indicated that the United States will wait 48 hours to see if the de facto leaders in Port-au-Prince give in to international pressure. According to the same sources, William Swing, the U.S. ambassador to Haiti, is authorized to negotiate with General Cedras, Police Chief Michel Francois, and head of the general Staff Philipe Biamby, on the terms of their surrender of power.

Jonassaint Urges Popular Resistance to Attack

FL1509162394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] De facto Haitian President Emile Jonassaint is urging the Haitian people to resist any foreign attack. In a speech in front of the Government Palace, Jonassaint stated that the world will be surprised by the resistance of the Haitian people to a military invasion. Jonassaint also appealed to the international community to avoid

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military action against Haiti. He said that next December, legislative elections will be held in Haiti, followed shortly by a presidential election.

While this is occurring in Port-au-Prince, in Washington, President Clinton is scheduled to give a speech at 0100 GMT on 16 September. It is expected that Clinton will try to win the support he is lacking to order the invasion. Some say Congress and public opinion will succeed in blocking an invasion of Haiti. Clinton has been strongly criticized by distinguished members of Congress, so tonight Clinton will try to explain how the coup d'etat regime in Port-au-Prince affects U.S. national security. The Pentagon has just announced that by 19 September, two aircraft carriers and 15 warships cleared for action will be positioned off the Haitian coast.

Cuban Radio Confirms Tension Mounting in Haiti

FL1609015094 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report by unidentified UNIVISION correspondent, in Port-au-Prince; from the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] The situation in Haiti continues to...[pauses] Tension is mounting here. The United States this morning sent two naval vessels to show that they are not going to allow the military authorities do whatever they want. The streets are very tense. Many people expect the invasion to take place at any time. Repression is also increasing. We found during a tour of Cite Soleil—one of the capital's poorer neighborhoods—this morning the body of a young man who had been beaten. He had been...[pauses] He died from the blows that he received. That type of incident makes people very nervous. A curfew was imposed yesterday, from 1900 to 0700. All of this is making people very tense. As for a negotiated solution to this crisis, every moment that goes by makes that harder to achieve. There are 17 U.S. naval ships right off the coast of the capital, and everyone expects something to happen at any time.

Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses U.S. Blockade

FL1409185494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Interview with Pedro Prada, assistant to Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, by inidentified correspondent; in the studio; from the "Doing Radio" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified reporter] Pedro Prada, assistant to Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, discusses the new arguments put into the hands of the highest UN authority, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which exemplify how the blockade implemented by the United States for over 35 years hurts Cuba. One of the topics discussed was education.

[Prada] Book editing and printing is one of the areas most affected in education. Here, the damage caused by the blockade is clear, especially since the collapse in relations with the socialist bloc. This has been apparent since 1989 in the case of medical books, when the U.S. company McGraw-Hill bought the rights to the Spanish company selling to Cuba, which specialized in medical books. However, to show how things turn around and some people end up hurting themselves, McGraw-Hill was not permitted to exhibit at the Havana Book Fair, at which time they wanted to show their cultural editions and promote trade for their scientific and technical book business, which is so necessary to our educational system and to developing research in Cuba. McGraw-Hill could not participate in the book fair because the blockade laws do not permit this cultural exchange despite the fact that the Torricelli Law favors this kind of exchange.

In addition, in the case of communications and computer information currently so important in educational systems because of the speed and need for information, Cuba cannot purchase the Current Content [not further identified] through the WSP [expansion unknown], which is the system that disseminates this information to the world. Furthermore, when Cuba has access to any of this information, the prices are much higher; there is a delay in reception; and it has to be done through other countries, which involves difficult, costly operations.

The exchange of periodic and nonperiodic publications is also banned, and this affects the level of information of many of our professors, and of the students who cannot find references in libraries and specialized centers. Because of this, it has been impossible to update valuable collections in our libraries and archives.

Additionally, Cuba cannot send E-mail, does not have access to remote database information centers, and cannot buy data bases in CD-Rom or other systems. Cuba is prohibited from participating in international data nets, such as Internet, which allows the exchange of information and affects development of the educational and cultural systems.

Many times visas are not issued to researchers, professors, or reporters, to facilitate communication, which is fundamental for the culture and education of the people. Cuba has serious difficulties in finding supplies, not only regarding book publishing, but also in other teaching sectors, such as technical and natural sciences, especially for chemistry labs. If this situation were to continue, the damages to the spirit and culture of Cuba—its most important attributes and credentials for the world—would be beyond repair.

[Unidentified reporter] These topics were presented by the UNESCO president to Butrus Butrus-Ghali—is that right?

[Prada] They were first presented by the Cuban delegation to UNESCO. At the same time, Fernando Ramirez de Estenoz, Cuban permanent ambassador to the UN and first vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex], informed Butrus Butrus-Ghali in an

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extension to the Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina letter, on which we commented in a previous program.

[Unidentified reporter] Thank you, Prada. We are going to debate this topic in the Assembly, at which time we can get into details on how the U.S. blockade has been affecting Cubans for 35 years, not only in business ventures, but in a spiritual sense and in the development of new Cuban thinking. [end recording]

Commentary Criticizes Further U.S. Restrictions

PA1509154494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Commentary by Amalia Sanmartino; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The recent agreement on migration signed between Cuba and the United States, even though it may not resolve all problems between the two countries, has set a precedent that shows normal relations on certain issues are possible, based on commitments to which both sides must adhere.

Nevertheless, although the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba continues, which is the basic reason for the many difficulties endured by the island's population, a trend is growing around the world that strongly advocates an end to restrictions. In this context one cannot help but notice that even as agreements on migration that favor both countries are being signed, new restrictions are being imposed and maintained that hurt communication between Cuban families and harm relations between those who live on either side of the water.

Speaking during a recent news conference held after the agreements were signed, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to the New York talks, said that it was paradoxical that the U.S. Administration, that prides itself on its great concern for the common people and their problems and for society's problems, has taken measures against Cuba that not even Ronald Reagan or George Bush took that hinder communications between Cubans. In this connection, Alarcon mentioned remittances by Cubans living in the United States to their relatives in Cuba and other restrictions. Commenting on this topic, he added: There are countries in Latin America that derive their main income from remittances sent by their citizens living in the United States. We need not go back too far to remember that for many years El Salvador has been one those countries. More than 1 million Salvadorans live in the United States. This figure does not include those who live in other Latin American countries. It must be said that all those immigrants work hard to support their families that they left behind in the fatherland.

But this is not only the case for Salvadorans—there are Nicaraguans, Guatemalans, and Mexicans who have also crossed their country's borders, forced into exile by wars and their country's very bad living conditions. From their painful and nostalgic exile, they send money earned from their work, sometimes under inhuman conditions, for their children or parents.

One must not believe that only the United States is the promised land where immigrants arrived to try and alleviate distressing situations. In Latin America itself, immigrants from very poor countries, with dictatorships that have taken away their most basic rights, have gone to neighboring countries in search of liberty and work. The 1 million Paraguayans in Argentina and the thousands of Bolivians, who before the military takeover had crossed the border and established themselves in the River Plate region, are valid examples of how working outside the country of origin and sending remittances to relatives who stayed behind are not crimes or something worthy of punishment or any sort of restriction.

Doubtless the new restrictions imposed by Washington on Cuba are in response to pressures exerted by ultrarightists who try to hinder normal relations between Cuban families. Like all measures taken regardless of cost and out of spite and with strong opposing sentiments, these come under serious questioning and must be studied as part of the blockade that every day grows ever more anachronistic.

UK Delegation Visits Economic Enterprises

FL1409170594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] The high-level British delegation visiting Cuba toured the provinces of Cienfuegos and Ciego de Avila.

This morning, Ian Taylor, the British undersecretary of state for trade and technology, accompanied by a delegation of businessmen from different sectors of that country and Cuban officials, visited Cienfuegos Province. During their stay in that province they visited different industries of that city. At the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Power Plant, one of the country's more efficient plants, Taylor expressed his admiration for this collective's efficiency. Taylor and his delegation also received an ample description of the main characteristics of the province.

[Begin Taylor recording in English, with superimposed translation into Spanish] There are many natural resources here and many prospects for tourism. It is very impressive. [end recording]

(Michael Ada), president of the technical advisory team for British foreign trade in the Caribbean, was among the guests from the United Kingdom. He pointed out possible prospects for Cuba....

[Begin recording in English, with superimposed translation into Spanish] [(Ada interrupts)] ...with a view to developing new projects in Cuba. Some of these projects are already in progress. [end recording]

The British delegation also visited economic installations in Ciego de Avila. Ian Taylor and his delegation visited oil deposits and the projects being built for

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tourism in that province. They were accompanied by Politburo member Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez, Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal, and Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas. The guests learned of the real possibilities for oil exploration from various oil drilling structures in that and other regions of Cuba.

At the moment, British companies do the initial work of exploration in new areas tended by the Majagua Oil Unit. During their visit to the province's oil infrastructure, the British delegation held a meeting with the workers at the Pina oil deposit, who have extracted more than 63,000 tons of a crude, described as the best crude in the nation.

When interviewed for this newscast, Ian Taylor said that the prospects for areas such as the one he visited could be extremely promising for the signing of agreements with enterprises from that country.

[Begin recording, with superimposed translation into Spanish] [Taylor] I wanted to see the area for myself, and that to see that oil had already been found and extracted [words indistinct] is a success. [end recording]

The business delegation also visited several tourist projects under construction in the northern keys of Ciego de Avila, where the goal is to build approximately 6,000 apartments in the next few years.

According to Taylor's own words, Great Britain is interested in increasing trade relations with Cuba, a decision that is related to the economic facilities and investment security that exist in Cuba.

Cabrisas Signs Accord With UK Trade Minister

FL1509140494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas, and Ian Taylor, British minister of trade and technology, signed an agreement which, according two both sides, will promote British businessmen's participation in Cuba's opening to foreign capital. Taylor stated that he had met with Cuban President Fidel Castro and that the meeting had been lively and very open:

[Begin Taylor recording in English with passage by passage translation into Spanish] It was a very lively meeting, and we very openly covered an enormous range of current, future, and historical events, to build on my visit. So, the talks with the president were very successful. [end recording]

Taylor traveled to Cuba, accompanied by 15 businessmen. They visited sites of economic interest in Havana City, Cienfuegos, and Ciego de Avila. The delegation also visited Cayo Coco and were greeted by ministers and authorities responsible for our major economic sectors. In a news conference, Taylor stated that he had hopes that mutual relations would be strengthened:

[Begin Taylor recording in English with passage by passage translation into Spanish] So I think there are good prospects and the businessmen with whom I have spoken are certainly prepared to look a the various regions of Cuba for their investment strategies, not just Havana. [end recording]

The British commercial and investment delegation was interested in creating joint enterprises and other similar companies.

UK Support Said Secured for Reforms

PA1509211694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1204 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 15 Sep (PI.)—The visit by Ian Taylor, British secretary for trade and technology [title as received], that ended on Wednesday lent important support to economic reforms in Cuba in exchange for business opportunities for UK companies on the island.

The Cuban and UK Governments, represented by Taylor and Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban foreign trade minister, signed an agreement deemed momentous for both sides.

Ministers Taylor and Cabrisas signed the document, which was described as a "considerable step in the creation of trust in trade relations between British industry and Cuba."

Taylor declared that he was satisfied with his conversations with Cuban President Fidel Castro, whom he told that despite differences in the two nations' political systems, investment and trade are the most effective tools to stimulate the economic opening up measures designed by the island's government.

"We both expressed our concern for the need to progress in our relations after this visit. He told me clearly that the reform process will continue to the extent that Cuba enters the international market," the British minister indicated.

Cabrisas indicated that the British minister wanted to learn first hand about the application of reforms in Cuba to subsequently—as he has said on several occasions—spur that nation's business sector into approaching the Cuban market.

Taylor led a delegation of 15 businessmen from diverse economic fields, particularly financial services, who, according to the ministe:, are willing to offer advice on monetary reform and administration of revenues.

On the debt issue, the first on the British agenda, the minister said that his mission was not to renegotiate the debt at a government level, rather it was to seek solutions. Cuba's debt to the UK totals approximately $60 million.

In this vein, he mentioned the exchange of debt for assets, among the instruments analyzed, terming very

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constructive the meeting with Ernesto Melendez, foreign investment and economic cooperation minister.

Taylor's tour of the countryside yesterday emphasized energy, such as the "Camilo Cienfuegos" oil refinery, the "Carlos Manuel Cespedes" thermoelectric plant in Cienfuegos Province, and the oil fields in Pina in Ciego de Avila Province.

There are two British companies in this sector that hold exploration licenses. One of these companies is already negotiating another bloc, while there are service companies that work with other foreign companies dedicated to drilling wells.

To conclude, the minister, the highest-level representative of the British Government to visit Cuba in the past 20 years, indicated that he wants to see this participation strengthened and broadened.

"I trust that British companies that come to this country will receive the same constructive welcome that the trade delegation and I received."

In 1993, the UK exported to Cuba goods and services worth 14 million pounds sterling ($20 million); this represents a 50 percent decline in 1992 trade. Nevertheless, in the first six months of 1994, supplies to the Caribbean island increased 180 percent due to the purchase of cereals by Cubans.

The UK exports to this nation agro-chemicals, industrial machinery, and manufactured goods, while Cuba sells sugar, citrus fruits, and cigars, among other products, to the UK.

UK Agrees To Promote Trade

PA1509224794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2203 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Elsy Fors]

[Text] Havana, 14 Sep (PL)—Cuba and the United Kingdom today initialed an agreement that has been described as important for both parties. The agreement is designed to promote trade and investment in a time of great need for the island.

Ian Taylor, British secretary of trade and technology [title as received], and Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban minister of foreign trade, signed the document that Taylor described as "an important step in creating trust in the commercial relations between British and Cuban industries."

Taylor told the many reporters present at the signing of the agreement that he was pleased with the talks he held with Cuban President Fidel Castro. Taylor told Castro that despite the differences in the political systems of the two countries, investment and trade are the most effective means of opening up the economy, a move promoted by the government of the island.

"The two of us agreed on the need to expand our relations right now, and he [Castro] clearly stated that the process for reform will continue in direct proportion to Cuba's entry into the international marketplace," the British secretary said.

Taylor noted that the United Kingdom already has strong commercial ties with Cuba. A number of British companies are in business on the island and involved in many areas; for example, oil exploration, services for the oil industry, chemicals for use in agriculture, lubricants, the production of soap and detergent, the citrus market, financial services, and the sugar industry.

"These are difficult times for Cuba, but it is also a time of opportunity that must be explored for the good of our island economies. Cuba is moving toward more open trade relations with developed countries, and this hastens its process of internal reforms," Taylor said.

Cuba has signed investment protection agreements with Italy, Spain, and Mexico, but this visit places special emphasis on the agreement signed with the United Kingdom because of the present situation, because it emphasizes an atmosphere of trust in Cuba and in the future of investments, Taylor added.

Meanwhile, Cabrisas stressed that Taylor did not come "to tell us what to do, but to offer his experience in those areas that, in light of the British industry's tradition, can be of great value for Cuba."

Taylor headed a delegation of 15 businessmen representing various economic branches, particularly in the area of financial services that, according to the secretary, are willing to offer advice for monetary reform and the handling of profits.

Regarding the debt issue, which was one of the main items on the agenda, the British official said that his mission did not include renegotiating debts at the government level, but rather encouraged a solution for the problem. Cuban obligations with the United Kingdom amount to approximately $60 million.

On this issue, he discussed, among other mechanisms, the one of using a barter system and said the meeting with Ernesto Melendez, the minister of foreign investment and economic cooperation, was very constructive.

Taylor's tour of the interior of the country yesterday included visits to power installations, such as the "Camilo Cienfuegos" oil refinery, the "Carlos Manuel de Cespedes" thermoelectric plant in Cienfuegos Province, and the Pina oil fields in Ciego de Avila Province.

He said two British companies have already obtained exploration licenses, one of which is negotiating for another block, and there are service companies that work with the foreign firms drilling the wells.

In conclusion, the minister, who is the highest-ranking British Government representative to visit Cuba in the

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past 20 years, indicated that he wants to see participation strengthened and expanded.

Cabrisas, UK Minister on Talks

PA1509225494 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Sep 94

[First of two parts of a report by Marianela Samper from the "Evening Information Review" newscast—live]

[Text] On Wednesday, the Cuban and British Governments signed an investment protection agreement at the conclusion of a three-day visit by officials and executives of the European nation. Ian Taylor, British trade and technology minister, stressed that the document serves as a guarantee and promotes investments and trade with the island. He also conveyed to journalists his impressions about his meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

[Begin Taylor recording, in English fading into Spanish translation] The talks were animated, and we covered an enormous range of current, future, and historical events very openly. I saw that the president was ready to discuss a whole range of very difficult points, and in return I was prepared to also raise issues about which we have evident differences. However, we were both concerned about the need to move ahead as a result of this visit, and he made it clear that the reform process will continue as Cuba enters the international market. [end recording]

The high-level British delegation toured different points of interest in Cienfuegos and Ciego de Avila Provinces. In the latter, they visited an important oil drilling area, which they said has considerable potential with possibilities for increasing British business participation. Other sectors showing similar opportunities included the sugar and light industries, agro-chemical and citrus product industries, financial and basic services, and tourism.

Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas talked to journalists about the results of the British trade and technology minister's visit.

[Begin Cabrisas recording, in Spanish with passage-by-passage translation into English] He did not come to tell us what we should do. He has come to learn what we are doing and to offer his experience in some areas, such as management, in which he believes British industry has traditionally had experience. This is why the visit has been very useful. We feel very satisfied. We believe this is the beginning of a broad dialogue that should be continued, both at this level, as well as between businessmen from both sides, and that in the short-term this will yield benefits. [end recording]

I will be returning later with the second part of this report with more details.

Further on UK Minister's Comments

PA1509225694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Second of two parts of a live report by Marianela Samper from the "Evening Information Review" newscast; recorded statements by Ian Taylor, British trade and technology minister, in English fading into Spanish translation]

[Text] [Samper] The delegation of British officials and executives headed by Ian Taylor, British trade and technology minister, has concluded its three-day visit to Cuba. During the visit, the delegation held meetings with Cuban authorities, enabling it to thoroughly examine opportunities for trade, business, and investments. This first high-level mission in 19 years toured sites of economic interest in Cienfuegos and Ciego de Avila Provinces. In the latter province, members of the mission were briefed on one of the best quality petroleum deposits. Regarding the prospects for this sector, Taylor said:

[Taylor] There are already two companies that have export licenses in Bloc 21. One of those companies is currently negotiating on another bloc. There are also petroleum service companies that are working with other companies that are already involved in oil exploration and drilling in Cuba. Clearly, the potential you have is considerable, and we wanted to examine the ways in which we could increase our participation. The final decision on whether this takes place is in the hands of the commercial companies and not the British Government.

[Samper] Referring to the sugar industry, whose production and productivity Cuba wants to improve, the British official said there are British companies with specialized knowledge in this sector and in sugar refining.

[Taylor] We also talked about overall trade in sugar products. In addition, one of the problems of sugar at this time is that this sector is not as mechanized as it once was. I understand the reasons for this. The question is whether British companies can help upgrade the Cuban sugar sector.

[Samper] The British delegation identified other sectors in which British business involvement is possible. These are light industry, agro-chemical products, citrus fruits, financial and basic services, the printing industry, and tourism. One of the objectives of this high-level mission was to increase trade relations, bearing in mind that other European nations, Mexico, and Canada have a larger volume of operations with the island. After three days of meetings, the British trade and technology minister listed ways he now understands can be used to encourage his country's private sector to enter the Cuban market.

[Taylor] Well, to begin, the group included a large number of businessmen. Second, we have an advisory group for trade with the Caribbean, which has paid previous visits to the country. Third, there are British

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companies that already have experience here, and this experience seems to have been successful. Last, the agreement that was signed this afternoon shows confidence that Cuba is a market with which British business can establish relations.

[Samper] This mission did not come to Cuba to negotiate the island's debt with Great Britain. There are government-level talks for this purpose. What was of most interest to the bankers and businessmen who formed the group was to find ways to structure trade deals so that Cuba would be in position to conduct business. As a result of the dialogue, the businessmen are returning to their country with many ideas on ways to move ahead, including by amortizing the debt with assets, as has been done with other countries. Ian Taylor concluded his visit to Havana by explaining the root of his government's motivations with regard to the Cuban economy.

[Taylor] Cuba has always been a place of [words indistinct] interest as part of the broader interest we have in the Caribbean. Cuba is, of course, surrounded by islands with which we have always maintained relations. We also have maintained those relations with the continent. It would not surprise me that you also have in mind the issue of the embargo. We have always maintained normal trade relations with Cuba. Relations between the U.S. Government and Cuba are bilateral matters. British companies and the U.S.-owned companies based in Great Britain, however, are not prevented in any way from trading with Cuba.

[Samper] The delegation of British officials and executives returned to their country with a greater understanding of the possibilities for investments and business in Cuba and also with the conviction that the signed investment protection agreement will serve as a green light to encourage British private businessmen.

Rosales del Toro Receives PRC Military Delegation

FL0909125794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] and chief of the General Staff, received Colonel Gen. [rank as heard] Li Hin, deputy chief of the General Staff of the PRC People's Army, who has been visiting Cuba since 7 September.

Rosales del Toro welcomed Gen. Li Hin in the name of FAR Minister Raul Castro, and in the name of FAR members. He stated that the visit has great significance because it shows the strengthening of friendship between the two countries.

Rosales del Toro added that the PRC has supported Cuba, especially under difficult circumstances, and that the FAR is pleased with his visit and that of the officers who accompany him. He offered the visitors a panoramic view of the situation in Cuba, and of the Armed Forces in political and economic activities.

Col. Gen. Li Hin said he was happy to be in Cuba, and conveyed greetings from his government to Fidel and Raul Castro. He added that he looks forward to profiting from the valuable experiences of Cuba in the defense sector, and reaffirmed his admiration for the Cuban people, who remain resolute at only 90 miles from the world's greatest imperialistic power. The names, Cuba and Fidel, are therefore very popular in China, he said.

PRC Delegation Ends Visit

FL1309143894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] The delegation from China's People's Liberation Army visited the General Antonio Maceo military academy and the Playa Giron air fighter guard brigade. In the afternoon the delegation visited the Revolution Museum. Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Martinez, the museum director, greeted the delegation and briefed them on the main historic events commemorated at the museum. The delegation, composed of high-ranking officers of China's People's Liberation Army, were told of Fidel Castro's actions, as well as those of the other revolutionaries who were with him during the attack on the Moncada Barracks, on the Granma, and finally, at Sierra Maestra. The delegation was interested in details of the combat in which fundamental figures of our Revolution, such as Raul Castro and Juan Almeida, had participated. At the end of the visit, Col. Gen. (Li Hin) and the delegation laid a wreath at the eternal flame monument.

[Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 12 September reports the following: "Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, second in command of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], bid farewell to China's delegation of high-ranking officers from the People's Liberation Army. The delegation departed early this morning." Col. Gen. (Li Hin), second in command of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, is quoted in Mandarin fading to Spanish translation as saying:

["We have visited Cuban military schools and facilities. We have been deeply impressed, and have also learned many things. We have seen that Cuba is a beautiful country, with many natural resources. We hope that our Cuban comrades achieve victory in the near future. Once again, we express our deepest thanks to our Cuban comrades for receiving our delegation."

[Div. Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro says that the FAR "is satisfied with the delegation's visit, which will no doubt serve to strengthen relations between Cuba and China. High-ranking officers of the FAR and representatives

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from the Chinese Embassy in Cuba were on hand to bid farewell to the delegation."]

Lage Receives Shanghai Economic Delegation

PA1509134294 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0337 GMT 14 Sep 94

[All names as received]

[Text] Havana, 13 Sep (PL)—Carlos Lage, vice president of Cuba's Council of State, has received a delegation of experts on economy and trade from Shanghai Municipality, in the PRC, who are visiting the island to strengthen ties in the aforesaid areas, it was reported today.

A report by the AGENCIA DE INFORMACION NACIONAL (AIN) said that the Cuban leader met with Zhang Xiang, vice president of Shanghai Municipality's Economic Relations and Trade Commission.

The meeting resulted in an fruitful exchange of ideas and opinions on strengthening commercial and economic cooperation between the two nations, the source added.

Earlier, the Asian delegation was received by Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, Cuban minister of foreign trade, and Osmany Cienfuegos, minister of tourism.

Representing the PRC at this meeting were Lin Liangyou, charge d'affaires at the PRC Embassy; Li Mingxuan, director of the Medicine Bureau, and Qian Xuezhong, president of the Jin Jian Hotel Group. Representing Cuba was—in addition to Ambassador to Beijing Jose A. Guerra Mechero—Pedro Alvarez Borrego, vice minister of foreign trade, who presided over the talks.

On 8 September, Ulises Rosales del Toro, vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, hosted a party in honor of General Li Ging, head of a PRC delegation also interested in improving the bonds of friendship between the two countries.

PCC Member Appointed AALAPSO Secretary General

FL1309171894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Today, Comrade Ramon Pez Ferro was appointed the new secretary general of the Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization [AALAPSO]. Over the last few years, Pez Ferro served as an outstanding member of the Commission on Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of the People's Government. Representatives from Angola, Puerto Rico, Palestine, Vietnam, and (?Korea) [words indistinct] executive of the AALAPSO, warmly welcomed the new representative of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] to this international organization headquartered in Havana.

Ross Discusses Economic Efficiency Assemblies

FL1609014194 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 0039 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Interview with Pedro Ross Leal, Politburo member and Cuban Workers Federation (CTC) secretary general, by reporter Jose Luis Rumbao and program host Pedro Martinez Pires; from the "This Very Day" program; monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [Ross]...economic efficiency assemblies are a method and a procedure through which workers can effectively participate in Cuba's economic process. Efficiency is vital to our people and our future, and maintaining our social project depends on efficiency. This decision to maintain the achievements of socialism and to hold on to our aspirations and condition as a free country, to sovereignty and dignity can materialize on the economic plane if we are capable of achieving efficiency in everything. In everything, in absolutely everything. That is what we hope to accomplish, but we have just begun to walk down that path.

[Martinez] Much has been said about efficiency. Rumbao was asking what the CTC, which is in its 55th year, hopes to accomplish with these assemblies. Pedro Ross talks a great deal about efficiency. I am thinking about the efficiency of these very assemblies. I heard a report by Josefa Busi on the "Exclusive" program today where she pointed out that it seemed that perhaps not all the administrations are presenting the right kind of reports and in the proper way, which might cause extension of the assemblies. What is Pedro Ross' opinion on this?

[Ross] The transition from the present situation to the levels of efficiency that we want to reach means a constant process of perfecting all the things that we do on a productive scale and in the political work that we do. We have carried out a process of readying these assemblies. It began in early August and concluded on 5 September. We went to every province—including the Isle of Youth—and met with over 7,000 union cadres from around the country. We met with all the professional cadres and the cadres from the principal labor union bureaus of the country. We explained what we wanted. How did we arrive at what we wanted? Taking as a starting point what was achieved in the previous process. Beginning with insufficiency and the deficiencies that the previous cycle of economic efficiency assemblies had, we made a very rigorous and objective analysis of that cycle and circulated it among a group of comrades who gave their opinion. Based on those opinions, we determined what we needed to improve during this new cycle.

We have said that we aspire...[pauses] I also listened to Comrade Josefa Busi's report. She was unable to stay until the end of the assembly because she had the "Exclusive" program and would not have made it on

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time if she had stayed. One thing: We have insisted that these assemblies should not be any longer than needed.

The report that the administrations present to the workers is a key matter, it is vital. How is that report to be made? We have said that we do not want reports filled with numbers and technical words. We want the reports to have the numbers that are necessary; logically, when you make an economic analysis, you must use numbers. Certain economic concepts must be used, but, above all, we want our administrations to translate those concepts and numbers. We want them to translate into plain language, therefore enabling the workers to understand what is being reported.

Another thing we have asked for, apart from a short process and plain language, is that they identify the problems. We do not want reports that analyze the achievements. Well, a brief report could be made. I am not against...[pauses] That motivates us all. What this is all about is solving the problems that make us inefficient. We seek efficiency. Therefore, if the report is able to clearly identify those problems that conspire against efficiency and make suggestions on how to overcome those problems...[pauses] The administration has the greatest chance of identifying the problems that exist in an economic and productive entity. A good administrator is supposed to know about the problems that exist in his work center. That administrator or the administration—because I am not only talking about the head of the enterprise, but to the administrative council of the entity, as well—should also know what they can do to overcome that problem. If the administration can identify those problems and make suggestions on how to overcome them, the workers will then have a chance to discuss those problems and suggestions, to either support them or to suggest other measures that might be better, and indicate other problems that perhaps the administration overlooked in its report.

Another thing is that we want the workers to have seen the reports, the essentials, before it goes to the assembly, so that when they go to the assembly, they are aware of what they will be debating. That way, they can ponder the ideas and suggestions that they will be expressing so that they can express themselves clearly.

It is not the same thing to hear a report in an assembly and to have been familiarized with the issues that are included in the report.

[Rumbao] Pedro, could the lack of resources and raw materials sidetrack the discussion on efficiency?

[Ross] I do not think so. We must find efficiency through the resources we have. If at any time we have had to be efficient, based on the resources we have, it is now, because we have so little that we cannot afford to waste it. We must use our resources efficiently. It is vital that we use these resources efficiently. We are talking about the human, material, and energetic resources. We are talking about all types of resources, the financial resources, that everything that a work center does be productive whether it is a production, services, education, or health care institution.

In this sense, I believe there are examples of centers where steps have been taken that give us an idea of how much a work collective can do when it is aware of these things. I will give an example: The Primavera Center, in Pinar del Rio, which is where we started the workers parliaments and where we began the first cycle of these assemblies and these pilot assemblies. When we held the workers parliament at that center, the cost per peso was at 1.55 pesos. When we held the first cycle of the economic efficiency assembly, they had reached 1.09 pesos. The day we held the assembly, they had reached 1.07 pesos. This was printed in GRANMA. But that same day—because they do the numbers on a daily basis—they had already reduced their costs to 1.05 pesos. We expect that the results are not going to be spectacular. It is much better to go step by step and inch by inch so that all that is obtained can be consolidated. That way the results will be long-lasting and not just temporary and will not just be the result of vain actions. These action can become habits, if they are good, and produce good results.

This center has been designated a laboratory. I have personally been following up a group of assemblies since they held the workers parliaments, and we have been charting their progress to see how they are doing. They are from diverse production branches.

I must say that the main leadership, at all levels, of the CTC is going to focus, fundamentally, on the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC], both producing and not producing sugarcane, taking into account that the strategy has been defined as producing food and sugar. I visited two UBPCs on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. One of them, in San Cristobal, had obtained small results. The other, in Candelaria, had negative results.

One of the things that we have seen—personally, I have had this impression and on this occasion it proved to be correct during my conversation with the members of that UBPC—is that the concept and the conscience of being owners has not taken root in the workers of the UBPC. This is something that we must reason with them. When we were there, reasoning with them on this...[pauses] In one of those UBPCs, there were 35 workers that did not go to work because they did not have shoes. I asked: Do any of you know any farmer in the area who has abandoned his land because he did not have shoes? They all looked at each other and answered: No. Well, are you going to abandon the land that belongs to you because you do not have shoes? Are we going to have the shoes first and then resolve the problems? How do we solve the shoe problem? Furthermore, I do not see any of you barefoot. They began to realize what we were telling them.

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This type of reasoning must be made in each individual case. That is why these assemblies do not have a preestablished format. We must make the analysis based on what there is there. Furthermore, two work centers of the same branch are not the same. Therefore, we cannot use the same format for the two.

I believe the tailored suit concept applied by our Revolutionary Armed Forces in its enterprise system is worth considering.

[Martinez] I believe I read in TRABAJADORES that this assembly process is a challenge for the labor union movement, let us say for the labor union leaders. I believe that, having established the importance of the administrative reports, it is also a challenge for the administration. In other words, it is a challenge for all: the workers, the labor union leaders, the cadres. Why does this challenge exist? Why is the capacity of the labor union cadre, the administrative cadre put to the test? What are the issues and the complexity of the moment that make these assemblies effective, that the debates be profound, and that an awareness be achieved of the problems and ways to overcome them?

[Ross] Well, Martinez, I believe the main challenge or the first challenge is to change our mentality, all of us, administrators and union leaders, to change the focus, to change the concept of how we expound on the problems to be able to get to the bottom of the problems.

I will give you an example: Last night, we met with the Blas Roca Calderio contingent in an economic efficiency assembly. All the parameters that determine the economic efficiency from the economic-technical point of view have been met and are favorable. Nevertheless, comrades from the contingent had the insight not to seek those aspects in which they had been successful. Instead, they looked for those aspects in which they had not obtained results or things in which they could improve. In that manner, they identified 18 aspects in which they could improve. Later on, the workers identified more. Today, this morning, when a report was being read on the Blas Roca assembly, someone told me: I did not know there could be so many problems in a contingent. They circulated the report.

It was unlike the one of the Sexto Congreso Contingent—the one that recently concluded—which did not identify the problems. That is why it lasted so long. We had to prompt workers to start pointing out problems. We had to make suggestions, knowing the sector. We had to create a process to search for problems, time we could have used to discuss how to solve those problems. But in the end, the assembly of the Sexto Congreso contingent was magnificent. More than 700 workers debated the main aspects. There are still parameters, from the technical point of view, that indicate that their results have been positive. But I think we also identified more than 20 issues on which we need to work and work hard to say that we are on the path toward efficiency instead of saying that we had reached efficiency.

We cannot claim to be victorious just yet. We must see if we can consolidate what we have accomplished so far. Then we must try to improve even more.

[Rumbao] It is a path of much participation.

[Ross] Exactly.

[Rumbao] These assemblies have one specific thing which must be included in the discussions: the contribution of the workers to the social security fund. Can you tell us more about this? What are your observations of the preparation process?

[Ross] I believe the preparation process has been making way on this issue of the social security and the law system recently approved by parliament on taxes. These are new topics for our population. More than half of our population was born after the triumph of the Revolution. Nevertheless, at the assembly of the Sexto Congreso Contingent, over 70 percent of the workers were young. They unanimously approved contributing to social security. They had studied what had been published in TRABAJADORES newspaper, they had discussed and debated among themselves. Five comrades delivered magnificent speeches. People who lived in the capitalist era and in the first years of the Revolution clarified certain things.

Sometimes there is confusion regarding taxes and contributing to social security. Taxes are one thing, and contributing to social security is something else. We are not trying to impose a tax. The income tax is a principle, but incomes will not be taxed, at least for a period. Comrade Fidel stated that efforts would be made so that this measure of taxing the worker's salary be the last recourse. In all countries...[pauses] In Cuba, we were taxed on our salaries up until the year 1967. We had a tax of 11.90 [currency not specified]. Nevertheless, this was eliminated. We had to make contributions to social security up until 1962. Since 1962, we do not make contributions to social security. The sum of what is paid in social security, which is 1.6 billion, is paid by the employer and the state. The employer is obliged to pay for the workers social security. But the worker in all countries—and that is the way it was in Cuba—is also obliged to contribute to social security. The states are obliged to contribute to social security; nevertheless, not all states fulfill this responsibility. That is the truth. The Cuban state assumed, since the first year of the Revolution, the responsibility of paying for social security for all the workers of the country since prior to the triumph of the Revolution, only 40 percent of the workers in the country received social security benefits. I believe we have run out of time.

[Martinez] Yes, we have run out of time, but the challenge has not ended for all of us because the economic efficiency assemblies begin tomorrow. There is good experience, and I believe all the people are going to participate one way or another in this important battle. It is not a slogan. I believe it is clear that this is

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a...[pauses] Furthermore, contributions are a contribution for ourselves and for our future, and I believe an awareness is being created on this, even among some labor union leaders, who did not see that way with clarity. Two more seconds for Pedro Ross.

[Ross] I just wanted to tell the directors of this program that if viewers write to the program asking questions on the matter, we are willing—I and other specialists on the matter—to come here and answer the questions of our people and our workers.

[Martinez] This subject, which as Rumbao may know—Rumbao has reported much on this, as well as our correspondents in the provinces—will be followed up on the "This Very Day" program because it is an issue of extraordinary importance. I remember in a session of the workers parliament, the director of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, who is an eminent doctor, said that he was willing to give 20 percent of his salary if that would increase the value of the peso. I believe people are aware that we are at a moment when we must make a special effort.

We wish the CTC much success, which is to wish the success of the working class and this Cuban nation that is living crucial times. Thank you, Jose Luis Rumbao, who will continue helping us to follow up on this matter.

Oil Enterprise Goals, Achievements Outlined

FL1309172794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 13 Sep 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] By the end of August, workers from the central drilling and oil extraction enterprise were close to completing their new-deposit drilling goals, having drilled 4,216 meters of the 4,360 meters planned for 1994.

A modern drilling platform was installed close to Cayo Caracol, to continue the drilling of the third well in the sea bed on the northern coast of Matanzas Province. However, crude oil and natural gas production are short of meeting production goals.

Crude extraction was 22,700 tons below the expected goal for August, causing delays in meeting the plans for the first seven months of 1994. Because of this, there is currently a two-percent delay in extraction of the 566,000 expected for that seven-month period. According to information from officials at the enterprise, 27 percent of the gas produced in the seven-month period was wasted by the commercial sector, which also increases the production capacity deficit.

From September to December, the most important task for the collective is to reach a monthly average of approximately 91,300 tons, not only to cover the official goal, but to meet the additional goal of 30,000 tons, promised to the commander in chief.

Sugar Industry Minister Sets Guidelines

PA1409224894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 12 Sep (EFE)—During a meeting, Sugar Industry Minister Nelson Torres Perez today said the next sugarcane harvest should be marked by strict discipline and take full advantage of the productive capacity of all sugar mills.

At a meeting held in Jovellanos, Matanzas Province, 156 km from Havana, Torres said that "we must have a clear picture of the state of the sugar industry, the transportation sector, and the sugarcane harvest in order to resolve existing problems and move forward."

The minister of the sugar industry, the island's leading economic sector, reviewed the current state of the entire agro-industrial infrastructure in Matanzas and established the working policy for the next harvest.

"Guidelines must be followed," Torres stressed, "and administrative order and technological discipline on all managerial levels must be maintained, because there is no time for unproductive deliberations."

"If these instructions are disobeyed," Torres added, "we will determine who is responsible, because we must find solutions to our problems."

Torres encouraged everyone "to participate—from the rank and file on up—in seeking alternate solutions to the shortage of materials," and "to strive for the largest sugarcane harvest and industrial efficiency, because operational sugar mills will be working and the practice of sharing sugarcane between mills will be eliminated."

Torres explained that in the previous sugarcane harvest, which netted only 4 million tons of sugar, some sugar mills that were not operating were supposed to supply sugarcane to other mills, but that practice caused numerous problems and disrupted production.

The authorities' appeal insists that the next sugarcane harvest must be finished as quickly as possible and more efficiently than the previous harvest.

The Cuban sugar industry has seen its annual rate of production reduced drastically in the last three years, from 7 million tons in 1992 to 4 million tons in the last harvest.

This decrease in sugar production—whereby the country lost more than $1 billion between the last two harvests—is attributed mostly to the progressive reduction in the level of sugarcane available and a decline in industrial efficiency.

Commentary Protests Weeding 'Aggression' Against Sugar

FL1309233894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Commentary by Diosdado Maso; from the "National Radio News"]

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[Text] The Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC], responsible for almost all of our sugarcane, are directly responsible for weeding sugarcane. The Politburo agreement clearly states that 85 percent of the UBPC force should always be involved in the main activity of the sugarcane production sector, namely weeding crops. Nevertheless, more than 50 percent of UBPC forces are busy with other activities, such as self-sufficiency, surveillance, administration, and services, among many others. We have noted in past commentaries that some of our sugarcane production problems involve discipline and control. We could add to that list the rigor of the work. Assigning approximately 85 percent of the force tasks other than weeding crops is not just a violation of but an aggression against the country's economy. The sugarcane crops of Cienfuegos, Holguin, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, and Villa Clara are covered with weeds. A solution to the problem could be found if only we were to determine the percentage of UBPCs currently weeding these crops.

Ministerial Commission Views Progress in Granma

FL1009165994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Granma's recovery from the disasters caused by May's heavy rains was the focus of the meeting held by a ministerial commission in Bayamo. During the meeting, Division General Senen Casas Regueiro stated that the efforts and results obtained are the only way of resisting the imperialistic blockade. Casas, who is also a member of the Central Committee and of the Council of State, chaired the meeting of the ministerial commission which analyzed the progress of the work aimed at undoing the damage caused by the heavy rains of May. The meeting was also attended by Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer Cabrera, delegate for Granma.

Casas Regueiro reiterated that next year's plans must be realistic considering the province's resources and production levels, not forgetting the instructions given in case of natural disasters.

The report on the province indicated that 78 percent of the homes damaged by the rain had been repaired and that 107 new homes had been built to replace the 242 homes that were completely destroyed.

Municipality Holds Fairs To Sell Surplus Produce

FL1409003294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Report by Jorge Perez; from the "National Radio News"]

[Text] [Perez] So-called agricultural and livestock fairs held on Saturdays in San Nicolas de Bari, on the municipal assembly of the peoples government's initiative, give the public the chance to purchase various agricultural products. Producers sell rice, grains, vegetables, and fruits in limited amounts directly to the consumers at prices established by the municipal government. Some of the buyers and sellers at one of the San Nicolas de Bari agricultural fairs comment:

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] We should have had these fairs long ago, as a way to solve a great problem for the public and to help the state and the Revolution overcome the problem we face with the U.S. blockade.

[Perez] What did you purchase?

[First unidentified speaker] Five pounds of rice for ten pesos. This is fair. It solves my problem. Each of us wants to solve his own problems. The population is satisfied, now that it can obtain rice, beans, pumpkin, plantains.

[Perez] What are you waiting in line for?

[Second unidentified speaker] Pumpkin.

[Perez] What else have you purchased?

[Second unidentified speaker] Plantains, rice, and avocado. I am now waiting to purchase pumpkin.

[Perez] What do you think about this fair?

[Second unidentified speaker] It is very important. The population needs these fairs. The population needs these agricultural products.

[Perez] You are an independent farmer in this municipality. What are you selling?

[Third unidentified speaker] Pumpkin and avocado. My brother is over there, selling avocados. I am selling pumpkins.

[Perez] Is this your first time at the fair?

[Third unidentified speaker] No, it is the second time.

[Perez] What do you think about this means of getting rid of any surplus that you might have?

[Third unidentified speaker] It is good because...[pauses] We make the sacrifice in coming. We bring a handful of each thing. This is one way of helping the public. [end recording]

Products sold at the San Nicolas de Bari agricultural fair are part of the surplus of independent farmers, cooperatives, and self- sufficiency farms from different entities. Snacks and other prepared foods are offered to the public at these fairs, including candy, preserves, and different kinds of rice.

Bahamas

Ingraham Offers 'Logistical' Invasion Support

FL1509154994 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1130 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] As the United States troops stand poised off the coast of Haiti, ready for possible military intervention in

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that Caribbean island to restore democracy, The Bahamas is ready to join in, not through military action, but by the participation in the multinational force and will help reconstruct Haiti and restore democracy after the proposed invasion. Von Albry reports:

[Begin recording] [Albry] U.S. President Bill Clinton is scheduled to address the American people on Thursday night. The issue at hand: Haiti. Already U.S. warships are headed toward our southern neighbor. Their aim: to oust the military regime headed by Raoul Cedras and restore the Reverand Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He is the duly elected president ousted in 1991. Already an estimated 17 countries have pledged to participate in the U.S.-led invasion; 35 Bahamians will head to Haiti following the invasion. Today, Prime Minister the Right Honorable Hubert Ingraham stated why no Bahamians will participate in the invasion.

[Ingraham] We do not have any Army, so we are unable to participate in the invasion. But we are able to participate in the post-invasion peacekeeping exercise and other essential things. Because of our nearness to Haiti, we are also able to provide our friend America and others the critical logistical support.

[Albry] With an estimated 40,000 Haitian immigrants here, the prime minister noted that the state of Haiti has intrinsically impacted upon The Bahamas.

[Ingraham] We have more than our share, far more then we can take in. We feel the return of President Aristide to office in Haiti as the best opportunity for us to rid ourselves of large numbers of illegal immigrants. At the same time, while we seek to rid ourselves of large numbers of illegal immigrants, we are busy regularizing the status of those who have been in The Bahamas for a long time.

[Albry] The prime minister then outlined what he expects to occur here in The Bahamas.

[Ingraham] For the restoration of President Aristide to office in Haiti, the opportunity will be taken by the Government of The Bahamas to reduce substantially the numbers of illegal immigrants in The Bahamas where they are on Carmichael Road, on Cowbell Road, or up in the back of Seabreeze or in Abaco or North Eleuthera or elswewhere in The Bahamas.

[Albry] Prime Minister Ingraham announced that he too will make a statement regarding Haiti on Thursday. [end recording]

Cayman Islands

Governor Asks UK for Help With Cuban Migrants

LD1509221194 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2027 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By Alison Little, PRESS ASSOCIATION news]

[Text] British police officers may be sent to the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean to help the local force with a recent "mass" influx of Cubans, the Foreign Office said tonight.

The number of Cubans in the Caymans, a British Dependent Territory and tax haven 120 miles south of Cuba, has shot up from 96 two weeks ago to more than 1,000.

The Foreign Office said Cayman Islands governor Michael Gore had asked the British Government to consider providing support for his 260-strong police force in handling the migrants.

"Ministers have agreed that British policemen should be placed on stand-by to go to the Cayman Islands on or around next Tuesday, September 20, if required," said the Foreign Office.

"The Home Office is currently in contact with the Metropolitan and regional police forces to make the necessary arrangements. But no final decision has been taken to deploy British police officers."

The Cayman Islands government has also announced plans to introduce formal screening of all Cuban migrants in the islands, as well of those arriving subsequently.

Those deemed refugees will be offered temporary resettlement in the Cayman Islands, while those classed as economic migrants will be repatriated to Cuba, said the Foreign Office.

The increase in numbers follows the United States's decision to stop Cubans entering America.

As the Cayman Islands is a British Dependent Territory, the British Government has a constitutional obligation to ensure its security, said the Foreign Office.

"The recent mass exodus of Cubans has had a direct and serious impact on the Cayman Islands," said the Foreign Office.

"The Cayman Island authorities have coped with a steady stream of Cuban migrants over the past 35 years.

"But the numbers have increased dramatically in the past two weeks from 96 to over 1,000."

The Foreign Office also disclosed that a senior British police officer travelled to the Cayman Islands last Friday to discuss the problem with the governor and the local police commissioner.

Four more British officers arrived there today.

The Foreign Office said that if officers were sent to help the Cayman government, the Cayman Islands would foot the bill.

The Caymans have so far paid out some 500,000 pounds dealing with the influx of Cubans.

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The British Government has contributed 125,000 pounds towards the building of a tented camp, and 50,000 pounds to buy extra tents and beds.

The Foreign Office said the policy of the Cayman Islands towards Cuban migrants had previously been to help those who wished to continue their journey—checking vessels were seaworthy, competently crewed and carrying enough food, fuel and water—while offering temporary refuge to those unable or unwilling to do so.

"But the recent increase in the number of migrants has stretched the resources of the Cayman Islands to the point where they had no option but to seek the advice of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the British Government."

As a consequence, the Cayman Islands Government last week announced it would introduce formal screening.

But it is also offering migrants the chance to return to Cuba on a voluntary basis, "on the understanding that they will be allowed to apply for a US visa on their return, in line with the agreement reached on September 16 in New York between the US and Cuban governments.

"The US Government has agreed that it will accept such applications from these voluntary returnees," said the Foreign Office.

It said the screening was likely to lead to a "significant" number of Cubans being classified as economic migrants, which, under international law, the Cayman Islands had a right to repatriate.

"We have been in contact with the Cuban Government, which has been cooperative, but repatriation of the migrants cannot begin until it informs us it is ready to receive them."

The Cayman Islands has a population of 30,000.

Dominican Republic

Armed Forces Declared in 'State of Emergency'

PA1609012494 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2344 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 15 Sep (DPA)—Joaquin Balaguer, president of the Dominican Republic, reported this afternoon that his country's Armed Forces have been placed in a state of emergency in view of the imminent military intervention in Haiti.

The president said the state of emergency was declared in spite of the fact Dominican troops will not participate in the occupation of the neighboring country.

The head of state made the aforementioned statements in San Jose de Ocoa during the inauguration of a school and a housing complex.

He also spoke about the deployment of 16,000 soldiers along the 300-km border with Haiti. Approximately 2,000 of these soldiers will remain permanently housed in five military camps in and around Dajabon, 305 km northeast of the capital, it was learned.

There are also 88 multinational observers along the border. Approximately 15 of them are in the city of Dajabon and 10 in Elias Pinas, in the south.

It was reported five large hospitals—to which additional medicine, vaccines, and other equipment were sent—near the border have been fully equipped in anticipation of a massive crossing of Haitians to the Dominican side.

Armed Forces Chief Urges No Violence Against Haitians

PA1509153794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1420 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 15 Sep (AFP)—It was learned today that Ivan Cespedes, chief of the Dominican Armed Forces, has ordered his soldiers to avoid using violence against the Haitian refugees who may attempt to cross the border fleeing the announced U.S. invasion.

Military spokesmen have said that Cespedes issued the order to the chiefs of troops stationed along the border and who have the dual mission of ensuring that the embargo ordered by the United Nations against the Haitian military regime is respected and avoiding unchecked crossing of Haitians into the Dominican Republic.

Approximately 16,000 soldiers, with the support of helicopters, speedboats, and vehicles donated by the U.S. Government, have been deployed along the 400 km border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, countries that share the island of Hispaniola.

Despite the closure of the border, Dominican authorities allow the Haitians to cross every Monday and Friday to purchase food at the local border stores.

However, the crossing of Dominicans into Haiti is forbidden.

Balaguer on Steps To Prevent Haitians From Entering

PA1509223394 Paris AFP in Spanish 2125 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 15 Sep (AFP)—The Dominican Republic has adopted preventive measures to avert a mass influx of Haitians into the country if the expected military invasion takes place in that country, President Joaquin Balaguer said today.

"Necessary measures have been taken to protect the border in case Haiti is invaded," the president told the media.

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"The government is on the alert, and the Armed Forces are prepared to face any emergency that may result from the expected invasion," Balaguer said without specifying what types of measures he would take.

Within the past few days, thousands of Haitians have been assembling along the banks of the Masacre River, which runs along the border between the two countries, with the apparent intention of fleeing into the Dominican Republic if a military intervention takes place, according to reports from the area.

The border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which is about 400 km long, is being patrolled by some 16,000 Dominican soldiers and nearly 100 UN observers. The border, however, passes through rugged terrain through which the Haitians could cross into the Dominican Republic. To prevent this, the United States announced that members of a U.S. Army brigade, trained in mountain missions, will be stationed in these areas.

Haiti

Government Radio Broadcasts Jonassaint Speech

FL1509174594 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1100 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Speech by de facto President Emile Jonassaint in Port-au-Prince on 14 September—recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] eventful, distressing, but always proud; worthy, exalted; and first, by the working drawing of our structural makeup as a people, [words indistinct] our beliefs, our culture, and our excessiveness as negroes made drunk by freedom, who have been withstanding a great deal since 1804. At this exceptional moment in our existence as a free and sovereign people, as the survival of the nation is, for basely electoral motives, criminally jeopardized by the deliberately negative patterns of the rulers of the greatest world power, history orders us to reinforce our unity and our quiet determination as a free people. I solemnly appeal tonight to the deep, lasting, invisible unity of the Haitian people.

After the recent humiliations meant to compromise our honor, our pride, our sovereignty, and our independence by harshly ridiculing the extreme disproportion of our respective militaries, they now quietly advise us of the forthcoming slavery of our people, after they knowingly tried to starve them, to terrorize them, and to traumatize them on a daily basis.

Under the charge of alleged human rights violations, made with complete impunity by sordid propaganda machines that have not even succeeded in convincing the immense majority of the American people, now—indecency having been absorbed—now [repeats] they have programmed the destruction of an innocent people, who do not threaten international peace or security. I solemnly appeal tonight to the peoples' world consciousness and to the integrity of the highest moral authorities of the universe.

Men and women of my country: During this difficult moment of our history, I am again expressing my unshakable faith in the fate of our people. Haiti will keep to its course. Under my authority, the government will independently maintain its course because it remains the only honorable faction for closing this wound. The legislative elections will be held in December 1994, followed by presidential elections within a relatively short time, in a climate of peace and confidence and with respect for the laws and dignity of Haitians. Meanwhile, the government will continue to fulfill its mission. It will not fail in its principal tasks of assuming full defense of the Republic and of the fundamental interests of the Haitian people. Tonight, I solemnly appeal to the union of our people. May God help us. Thank you.

Haitian people, let me say a few words in Creole: [In Creole] As all of you know, we have not done anything to anybody. We harm no one. We do not threaten the peace of America or world peace. The most powerful people in the world at this time has declared war on us. As I have already said, Haiti does not have atomic bombs to defend itself. They can reduce Haiti to ashes in a few minutes. But I ask you to remain calm. Even if you hear planes flying overhead, and see warships in our harbors—grave violations of human rights—do not be afraid. As I already told them, Haiti is not alone. Perhaps, before long, everyone will be surprised by what they hear. Wait and see. That is all I have to say tonight. Thank you.

U.S. Soldiers Accused of Beatings at Dominican Border

FL1509213394 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report by Guilloto Francois]

[Text] Fuel prices rise with each passing day. The price of those products just went up: A gallon of gasoline in the Port-au-Prince streets, in Petion-Ville, or in La Saline costs about 38 Haitian dollars. Diesel fuel, used mostly by public transport, costs 36 Haitian dollars. Concerned vendors say that diesel fuel is expensive because it is so scarce, primarily due to strict control of the Haitian-Dominican border in an effort to reinforce international sanctions:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] I was told when I went to purchase gas that there wasn't any. I don't know what the problem is. There is no gas in Ouanaminthe right now, so the price is up. Ouanaminthe used to provide the gas, until strict controls were put in place to prevent people from crossing the border. So, fuel prices rise on a kind of black market for fuel. [end recording]

Some vendors find that trading fuel in Port-au-Prince is quite risky, saying that their lives are threatened if they

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do not lower fuel prices. Fuel trafficking has left victims in northern Haiti, especially along the Haitian-Dominican border. U.S. soldiers reportedly beat up Haitians along the border. One Haitian witness said:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] People die every day on the border. They undress people, they turn back people, they cut their ears, they cut their penises. For instance, I bought some gasoline from a Dominican family on Friday night. A Dominican woman said that Haiti had problems due to the invasion threats. We were chatting, and, suddenly, there was a hail of bullets. Eight Haitians were killed. [end recording]

The fuel shortage takes its toll on activities in the country. Most firms using generators have reduced their work schedule. One major effect has been the slowing down of public transport and the mounting fares.

Government Denies Vehicles Banned in Capital

PA1609011794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2343 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 15 Sep (EFE)—The "de facto" government today clarified that the movement of automobiles on the main roads of Port-au-Prince was not banned during the curfew declared between 1900 (2300 GMT) and 0700 (1100 GMT).

The Haitian Information Ministry pointed out in a press communique that vehicles may move freely throughout the capital at all times.

It added that the communique issued yesterday referred to national highways.

The ministry said that in the metropolitan area there is a ban on northbound circulation starting at Bon Repos, 10 km north of the capital, and southbound circulation starting at Gressier, 20 km from Port-au-Prince.

The "de facto" government's clarification follows the nearly nonexistent circulation of automobiles last night due to an erroneous interpretation of the communique.

Meanwhile, rumors intensified today regarding a Radio Metropole report yesterday that eight Haitian citizens were shot to death by Dominican soldiers at the Haiti-Dominican Republic border.

That information, however, has not been confirmed and the "de facto" authorities have not mentioned the alleged incident or the circumstances surrounding it.

Meanwhile, the crewman of a vessel belonging to the Port Authority of Haiti, which this afternoon approached a U.S. Navy vessel that ran aground on a sand bank off the coastline, said that they had made the approach to ask the "marines" to leave.

The employee of the Port Authority, who was not identified, added that they contacted the U.S. military men over the radio, and asked them to leave the coast. He added that the U.S. soldiers, however, ordered him to leave and immediately cut off communications.

The U.S. vessel was pulled off the sand bank by another U.S. Navy vessel that is patrolling the Haitian coast.

Meanwhile, hundreds of citizens began to abandon Port-au-Prince in view of the imminent U.S. intervention of Haiti to evict the military men who toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September 1991.

A vessel that sails between Jeremie in Grande Anse Department, and Port-au-Prince has received requests from many people from that town for space on board in order to abandon the Haitian capital.

Many people were spending great amounts of money to purchase food at supermarkets in Petionville to store them in their homes in view of the imminent invasion. The people at the shopping centers were very tense. They were reacting to leaflets dropped by U.S. planes that overflew the Haitian capital urging them to store food and water and to stay home during the military intervention.

The Public Health Ministry also started to air messages urging the population to stockpile food.

Groups Allege U.S. Embassy 'Terrorist' Meeting Site

FL1509195494 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] The Haitian Resistance League [LRH] reports that a meeting has been held in the U.S. Embassy to plan terrorist activities against the Haitian Government and population. The terrorist activities will be used as a pretext for military aggression against our little nation, weakened by economic sanctions, and as a prelude to President Bill Clinton's address to the American people on 15 September. The LRH says participants in this meeting to plan terrorist attacks on Haitian national territory include: Turneb Delpe; Rene Theodore; Evans Paul, alias K-Plim; Stanley Schrager; Ambassador William Lacy Swing; John Kembourian; and David Fitzgerald. The LRH writes: Funds have been distributed to Haitian participants to organize select assassinations and riots similar to the 1985 Gonaives riots to provoke military intervention and unprecedented genocide in Haiti. The LRH hopes the Haitian authorities will do everything to thwart the gruesome plans of the country's enemies.

[Radio Nationale adds during the same newscast: "Capois Lamort [OCL] says it is dismayed to learn that stateless Haitians have met members of the U.S. diplomatic mission on the very premises of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince to plan terrorist attacks against the lives and property of the population. The OCL writes: Among the plotters gathered at the Embassy with Stanley Schrager and William Lacy Swing were Rene Theodore,

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K-Plim, and Turneb Delpe, who received a considerable amount of money to assassinate peaceful citizens, to prepare bloody riots throughout the country, and to have the children of Family is Life killed as a pretext for the U.S. military adventure in Haiti. OCL condemns those acts as unworthy of the government of a nation that claims to be the world champion of human rights and urges the population to inform the authorities of any suspicious steps of the concerned persons and their confederates. OCL asks all Haitians to unite under our two-colored flag to defend the threatened and abused homeland. This note is signed by OCL Secretary General Engineer Franck Pierre."]

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Potential for U.S. Steel Dispute Within NAFTA

PA1509164494 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p 12

[Text] At the end of the current administration's term, Mexico will have access to open markets in North and South America as a result of this same administration's trade policy, Herminio Blanco Mendoza, SECOFI's [Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat] under secretary for international trade negotiations, has said. He noted that the first trade dispute between Mexico and the United States within NAFTA will occur in November with the installation of a panel designed to solve the controversy over compensatory taxes for U.S. steel.

Speaking at the 26th forum of the National Chemical Industry Association, the SECOFI official outlined the balance of the results from NAFTA's first six months. Within this outline was the fact that the financial sector has submitted 102 requests for the set up of subsidiaries of U.S. and Canadian companies. This would represent a $1.5 billion investment that would have repercussions on competition in that sector.

He explained that by the end of the year it is expected that NAFTA's Environmental, Labor, and Administration Commissions will be installed.

In what is left of the current administration, he said that negotiations with Nicaragua, in which considerable progress has been made, will continue, as will talks with the so-called northern triangle (Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras). Nevertheless, it is still unknown if these talks will be concluded during this administration's term.

Blanco Mendoza noted that the achievements of the negotiating process in treaties that have actually been signed are important for Mexico. An immediate opening in the treaty with the Group of Three was seen in 61 percent of the classifications with Colombia. Import taxes with Venezuela will be eliminated on 95 percent of the products within 10 years, while the remaining 5 percent will be negotiated in the coming months.

Mexico has also granted Costa Rica concessions on import taxes. Also, it has been agreed that Mexican businessmen will be the sole salesmen of copyrights to that nation.

Businessmen Sign Accord With Spanish Counterparts

PA1609031894 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 14 Sep 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Mexican businessmen held a meeting with their Spanish colleagues in Madrid. Spain's economic and commercial flow to Mexico is tremendous. The flow, however, is not so strong from Mexico to Spain. In this respect, Mexico-Spain Committee President Valentin Diez Moreno has asserted:

[Begin Diez recording] We must use better incentives to generate joint investments by Spain in Mexico and vice versa. [end recording]

Mexican Ambassador to Spain Rodolfo Echeverria Ruiz asserted that the commercial opening was prompted by Mexico's excellent political stability.

[Begin Echeverria recording] When there is institutional and productive peace, economic and commercial agreements, such as these—which are so necessary and important to the expansion, globalization, and universalization of both economies—are much more feasible. [end recording]

The first meeting ended with the signing of a mutual cooperation agreement between the Superior Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industries and [word indistinct] of Spain and the Mexican Business Council for International Affairs. In addition to all the Mexican and Spanish business personalities who attended this first meeting, Javier Gomez-Navarro, the Spanish commerce and tourism minister, was also present, and he invited the Mexicans to continue investing in Spain.

Salinas: Government Willing To Talk to PRD

PA1509131794 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Report by Marisela Palacios]

[Text] After presiding over events marking the 147th anniversary of the heroic deeds of the martyred children of Chapultepec, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that the government is willing to enter into a dialogue with the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD].

The president pointed out that the government's fundamental policy has always been based on dialogue, respect, and tolerance. In this respect, he is pleased to receive proposals from the political parties, especially the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], the PAN [National Action Party], and the PRD, to establish talks relevant to the country's reality.

[Begin Salinas recording] I would like to specifically point out that we consider the PRD's proposal an encouraging step for the country's democratic life, as well as evidence of the positive attitude on the part of that leading political party. [end recording]

With respect to Chiapas, the president said that given the situation in the region, the federal government would continue to respect the state's political forces and the manner in which local authorities conduct everyday affairs. At the same time, the president reiterated his willingness to establish honorable conditions leading to lasting peace and the advancement of democracy.

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Guatemala

Defense Minister on Human Rights Accord, URNG Position

PA1509130294 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 10 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Carlos Canteo]

[Text] During an interview yesterday with Cadena de Emisoras Unidas, Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez said that *the Global Agreement on Human Rights signed in Mexico does not rule out the capture of URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] guerrillas.*

According to Enriquez, the URNG has accused the Army of having captured three FAR [Rebel Armed Forces] guerrillas, *but that is not true because they surrendered and the human rights organizations are aware of this. However, there is nothing to stop us from apprehending terrorist criminals.*

They can say that more than 3,000 have been captured, but Military Intelligence reports 800 militants. They have serious problems when they have to increase the number of their combatants and that has them very worried, Enriquez stated.

He voiced his concern over those who object to amnesty for guerrillas, because they are the ones who do not want other rebels to follow suit and rejoin legality. Therefore, they are creating legal hurdles and obstacles so that others may not benefit from the amnesty.

Regarding Pablo Monsanto's statements to the same radio station, he noted that, according to the URNG concept, a peace accord cannot be signed by the end of the year, but the government hopes that lost time can be recovered.

Instead of searching for peace, he said, they have dedicated themselves to sabotage and military attacks, as occurred in Chupol Detachment where they made the serious mistake of indiscriminately opening fire on a bus full of civilians.

The government's has always been disposed to dialogue. That is why civilian patrols have not increased, despite the fact that guerrillas have continued attacking, sabotaging, burning and occupying farms, and charging the war tax.

Now they argue that we use the towers of GUATEL [Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise] to send messages, but they know we have means to send orders to the various military posts throughout the country, he said.

We *speak of peace, but they speak of achieving power through military means, something they have not managed to achieve in 33 years. This is why it is necessary that they return to the negotiating table to take a step forward in the process,* he noted.

Peace Commission Head on URNG Leader's Remarks

PA1509130194 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Sep 94 p 7

[Text] Hector Rosada, chairman of the Peace Commission, said yesterday that remarks by Jorge Ismael Soto, alias Pablo Monsanto, reflect internal problems in the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity]. Rosada also said that the government rejects the armed peace proposed by the guerrilla commander.

Those remarks, Rosada said, show who really wants peace and who wants war. It is a problem of the URNG's political willingness, as made evident by Pablo Monsanto's remarks.

They must also be viewed as a statement to its rank and file, sympathizers, and combatants. It was also an interesting political event to establish its position when the time to return to the negotiating table comes, Rosada added.

"A return to negotiations means that an irreversible process will be consolidated. We will be complying with the framework agreement, and we will be negotiating topic by topic. We will reach the moment for the URNG's incorporation into the country's political life," he stated.

Nicaragua

Ortega Calls for Deputies-Directorate Meeting

PA1509174394 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p 10

[Article by Martha Marina Gonzalez]

[Text] Esteli—Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has described as "rash" a decision by FSLN deputies to name Dora Maria Tellez as leader of the Sandinist bench without first having met with the National Directorate.

During a visit to this city, where he spoke with tobacco workers, residents of the Filemon Rivera neighborhood, and peasants from Santa Cruz, Ortega said that there is still a chance to renew talks to solve the crisis and invited the deputies to a meeting on Monday.

Regarding the meeting of the Sandinist Renewal Movement held this weekend attended by four members of the National Directorate, Ortega said that "there is a minority group that holds a position not in keeping with the FSLN's plan or principles. We must persuade them to respect the spirit of unity demanded by the rank and file."

The Sandinist leader discussed with tobacco workers their problems obtaining loans and in their internal organization. In the Filemon Rivera neighborhood, he laid a wreath in commemoration of the 18th anniversary

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of the death of the former alternate member of the historic National Directorate.

In Santa Cruz, Ortega and the peasants celebrated the fourth anniversary of the Heroes and Martyrs Agricultural Cooperatives Union.

At all three events, Ortega spoke of the need for the FSLN's rank and file to remain united in fighting for property rights, jobs, and the achievements of the revolution. He urged them to prepare to win the 1996 elections.

Ortega stressed that as long as the FSLN's rank and file remains united, the future of the FSLN is guaranteed. "Our goal should be to overcome the problems that we are now facing with a group of deputies. We do not want factions. The FSLN is one party; we should say no to those advocating the formation of different factions within the FSLN," Ortega said.

Ortega said that the best example of the unity of the rank and file is the fact that in Santa Cruz 300 peasants received their identification cards as militant members of the FSLN.

Daniel Ortega publicly called on Sandinist deputies to meet with the National Directorate on Monday to discuss and seek a solution to their problems.

Bayardo Arce Calls for 'Frank' FSLN Dialogue

PA1609003594 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p 10

[Article by Jorge Katin]

[Text] Bayardo Arce, member of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] National Directorate, yesterday steadfastly called for an "open and frank" dialogue in the FSLN, during his one and one-half hour appearance on Radio Sandino's "On Antenna" program.

In his opinion, the meeting set up by the FSLN Directorate with the Sandinist wing for next Monday "provides a good opportunity to respond to the Sandinist's clamor for a dialogue so that we can exchange views that will ultimately unite us, beginning with the leadership," he said.

"Why not hold a sort of summit between Daniel [Ortega] and Sergio [Ramirez]?" suggested a radio listener who called from Rivas. This was the prevailing tone of the listeners who called.

In another part of his speech, Arce condemned the arguments used by Carlos Guadamuz, Radio Ya director, against the Sandinist deputies, making it very clear that these attacks could never be ascribed to any member of the National Directorate.

Arce also dismissed the importance of charges of an alleged death threat made the day before yesterday against Dora Maria Tellez, the recently elected leader of the Sandinist wing.

"I refuse to believe that someone made that threat. This creates an image that we Sandinists are the violent ones, the terrorists, and that this is a split between good and evil, and we all believe we are good," he commented.

On several occasions, the Sandinist leader complained about the absence of Henry Ruiz from the National Directorate's meeting and of Sergio Ramirez from the Sandinist Assembly's meetings.

"This is the ideal place to debate ideas and defend positions," he indicated. Arce does not want to discuss internal problems publicly. "We should wash our dirty linen in private," he insisted.

On the media's polarization and the criticisms expressed by the listeners of Radio Ya and La Primerisima, Arce said: "There are two sides to every coin."

"I do not believe that EL NUEVO DIARIO and EL SEMANARIO are giving others the opportunity to express their ideas. I want to take this opportunity to invite the Sandinist rank and file to unite and hold an in-depth debate," he said.

"I hear the reorganizers say that the FSLN should distance itself from corruption, from violence, from terrorism. What are they saying? Are they saying that the FSLN is all of these things? I do not see how they can improve or reorganize the FSLN by tearing it apart, using the same speech of [Arnoldo] Aleman," Arce remarked.

He insisted that after November, when the UNO [National Opposition Union] refused to sign "the basic UNO-FSLN agreements," all negotiations were left in the hands of the FSLN wing. The rest of the Sandinist leadership never knew what happened during these negotiations.

Explosion Damages Military Monument in Managua

PA1509130094 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Sep 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Oliver Bodan and Mildred Largaespada]

[Text] Another terrorist attack occurred yesterday at 2150 [0350 GMT], when a section of the Monument to the Unknown Soldiers, located in front of the Gonzalez movie theater, was rocked and seriously damaged by a powerful explosion.

Deputy Government Minister Alfredo Cesar told BARRICADA that authorities have not ruled out a possible connection with previous attacks in Leon, at the National Stadium, and at the Kilometer 26 marker on the Southern Highway.

Late last night Cesar, as he called President Violeta Chamorro on a cellular telephone to brief her, reported that the National Police had not arrested any suspects in the attack.

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The explosion came hours before Mrs. Chamorro was scheduled to preside over Independence Day activities at the National Stadium.

"It is very difficult to determine who could have planted the explosive device. The police are working; we must wait for the results from the Central Criminology Laboratory," the deputy government minister said, adding that "one cannot deny that those who plant and detonate explosives are part of a terrorist plot."

National Police special operations personnel arrived on the scene immediately after the blast. The area was cordoned off.

The bomb, which is believed to have been a C-4, damaged the foot of the statue. The monument was erected some years ago in homage to rebel fighters who rose against Somoza.

The structure depicts a man wearing trousers, boots, and no shirt. In one hand he holds a pick in one hand and a raised rifle in the other. The statue's right leg, left ankle, and right pocket are damaged.

According to residents of the 19 July neighborhood, located behind the presidential residence, the explosion occurred at 2140.

Residents of San Antonio neighborhood said that "there was a loud noise. It did not break any windows but did shake the walls."

Army engineers arrived at 2235 and cordoned off the area. A team of about 15 men, loaded with technical and laboratory equipment, began searching for fingerprints and clues.

One of about 50 onlookers said "we heard the bomb and then there was a loud echo." Another said he thought it had to be "very powerful bomb."

The people of San Antonio emerged from their homes to see what the matter was. "I had no idea whether it was some sort of Independence Day celebration or a terrorist attack," a neighbor said.

Panama

ARI Director Carlos Mendoza Interviewed

PA1409034394 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Interview with ARI President Carlos A. Mendoza by TVN News Director Luz Maria Noli at the TVN studios in Panama City; from the "Dialogue" program—live]

[Text] [Noli] Good morning, friends. Welcome to Dialogue. Our special guest today is ARI [Interoceanic Region Authority] President Mendoza. Thank you for coming and welcome, Dr. Mendoza.

On the day when the new government assumed power, the recently appointed National Assembly president stressed that one of her projects is to modify the authority or laws that regulate ARI. What comment do you have on this?

[Mendoza] Luz Maria, I have always been known as a person who speaks clearly. I truly enjoyed Balbina's speech. I enjoyed it because it was well-written and even better read. With regard to ARI, I fully agree with her that ARI law needs to be modified. It needs this because we must speed up a process that is lagging behind. For example, the mechanism for property conveyance and rent contemplated under the ARI law does not work. Consequently, there are two ways to resolve the problem: a new fiscal code or the modification of the ARI law.

The ARI law has other defects. The ARI law was the result of a consensus, and every consensus has flaws. In turn, my answer could not be more favorable to the idea of Legislator Balbina Herrera, the current president of the Legislative Assembly.

[Noli] You said the ARI law can be modified by changing the Fiscal Code. Is there any other way to make modifications?

[Mendoza] Of course. For example, by changing the law itself, which is what Herrera proposed.

[Noli] If the law was the result of a consensus back then, something similar could occur now, right? Then, what guarantee is...

[Mendoza, interrupting] All Panamanians must be concerned about the areas that have reverted and those that are about to revert. However, President Perez Balladares has advantages at this stage—advantages President Endara did not have when the ARI law was approved.

Endara had lost control of the assembly, thank God! President Perez Balladares has control of the assembly. In addition, he is just beginning his administration while Endara was already near the end of his.

[Noli] The bill would expedite some of the procedures, which in turn would allow the reverted areas to more rapidly benefit the less privileged sectors. What has ARI done so far in order for all these less privileged sectors to receive some type of direct benefits from the reverted areas?

[Mendoza] It is important for the people to be acquainted with what ARI is doing within the framework of the current legislation. Revenues received from leasing ARI assets will be included in a fund that will be supervised by the Housing Ministry [MIVI], which in turn will use it to finance housing projects for the lower income groups.

Now, Luz Maria, we must all keep in mind one important issue. Without any doubt, 1995 is going to be a very difficult year for the government. Despite this forecast, we have several unavoidable responsibilities not only toward the lower income groups, but also toward your

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and my president whose name is Ernesto Perez Balladares. What do we plan to do? In addition to the $6 million balboas included in the budget earmarked for MIVI projects, we are also determined to find an additional $12 million. You might point out that such an amount is not simply going to magically appear out of a bag or the pockets of those ARI directors who are best off. This $12 million will come by transferring ARI assets in Margarita and Curundu—in short, assets that must be sold for the simple reason that the people want to own the property where they are currently living, or because they would like to own some property.

Therefore, on one hand we are carrying out one of our most important missions, which is to sell off those assets. Moreover, we are also encouraging the growth of private property in Panama and at the same time injecting additional funds into the Perez Balladares administration, which will be used to benefit lower income groups.

[Noli] You just mentioned something about my president and your president. Why is the ARI Board of Directors so concerned about this issue, especially since among all of those things noted during the inaugural address this institution was hardly mentioned?

[Mendoza] There was no reason to mention the institution.

[Noli] Really? Why not?

[Mendoza] Because it would have made the president sound boring. The president mentioned the ARI millions of times throughout his campaign. His main virtue is that he tends to speak clearly and pronounces his statements in such way that there will be no misunderstanding afterward. Ever since his candidacy was announced and up until the day when he was elected, he has always given foremost importance to the reverted areas. I am sure and very confident that his position on this issue remains unchanged. Therefore, he did not mention ARI during the inaugural speech because it was unnecessary.

[Noli] Why would the ARI Board of Directors be so intent in doubling productivity to support this administration or, for that matter, any administration that is currently in power?

[Mendoza] Before answering your question I would like to say President Perez Balladares is not simply holding power. He was duly elected as president of the Republic. Now, with respect to your question, good heavens, it is obvious: because of a basic sense of duty not simply for this administration, but for all Panamanians. The reverted areas issue is not a simple matter. It is a very sensitive issue. In addition, ARI will only be successful as long as it works harmoniously with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, the Foreign Relations Ministry, and most of all with the head of the executive branch. Luz Maria, more than anything else, this is a presidential system. The fact that in some shameful moments of our history the system was transformed is another matter. However, the head of the Panamanian system is the president of the Republic.

[Noli] You recently made some statements, and I could not help noticing that in your comments you described your position as ARI president as being a loyal supporter of the current administration. At the time I thought to myself that it is somewhat difficult to understand this contradiction.

For example, you and the group of honorable citizens who accompany you were all appointed... [pauses] Sorry, you and the other honorable citizens were selected by the Endara administration. Now we have President Endara's political rival winning the elections, and the ARI president now describes himself as a loyal supporter of President Perez Balladares.

[Mendoza] I must answer your statements by saying that if you regularly read my articles...

[Noli, interrupting] Something which evidently I do not do.

[Mendoza] If you had, you would have had an answer to your question. I published an article in EL PANAMA AMERICA entitled "Personal Declaration." In this article I pointed out that I have never been a PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] member, and I do not intend to join this party. Second, I noted that the presidential elections had been a magnificent experience and had been won by Ernesto Perez Balladares. Please that do not misinterpret my statements. I belong to the old Pancho Arias school, and I know how to lose with dignity. In this respect, my president is Ernesto Perez Balladares, and he will continue to be my president during the next five years.

[Noli] The ARI administration recently underwent an election process. The Board of Directors got together and proceeded to evaluate the candidates for the position ARI general administrator. In your opinion, what are the main features required from the man, or woman, the Panamanian appoint as ARI general administration?

[Mendoza] First of all, I am pleased that you mentioned the words man or woman, even if you did it by stuttering. We are all so use to the idea of the position being open only to a man. Luz Maria, this is not a difficult question. In this position we require honesty. Currently, this feature is surely not readily available in this country. We need management experience which is widely available. We need confidence. Most of all we require promotion capabilities which even geniuses sometimes lack.

I am aware that in the case of Jose de los Santos Chen Barria, everyone is well aware of his attributes, except his promotion ability—his ability to market. Since the elections, Jose de los Santos Chen Barria's efforts to market himself are a positive reinforcement to those of us who voted for him. In addition, one simply has to look at a candidate's track record. What has Chen Barria done

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all his life? He has been involved in promotions of one type or another ever since he was able to reason.

Now, Luz Maria, the decision was not easy for one simple reason. In Panama there are numerous capable candidates, despite the damned inferiority complex that plagues us Panamanians. It was no easy matter to select from all those candidates.

[Noli] Look...

[Mendoza, interrupting] I have noticed that you are becoming very serious.

[Noli] That is right.

[Mendoza] Goodness.

[Noli] That is because this is a very important issue. There was a first selection process which did not develop because of reasons we need not mention here. Now we have a second selection process. There are some individuals whose tongues are probably as uncompromising as mine and would resort to this as an indication of intelligence which, by the way, I do attribute to myself. These individuals point out that if you made a mistake made during the first selection, you have just made your second mistake.

[Mendoza] Man, oh man. One respects those people's opinions; however, one arrogantly does not agree with them. I believe we did what we had to do.

[Noli] What did you have to do?

[Mendoza] Given the circumstances, and given the people we had available, we chose that person who, looking at ourselves—in other words, looking at our consciences—was the one who could best perform the role of ARI administrator. I am convinced that all, absolutely all directors follow these criteria.

[Noli] Is it true that one of the candidates to the post measured a four in a one-to-five scale and that another candidate measured a five in the same one-to-five scale?

[Mendoza] Luz Maria, let us not talk nonsense.

[Noli] Thanks. [laughs]

[Mendoza] Could you imagine if someone rated Omar Torrijos in 1968 and suddenly he measured a 1.5? Or could you imagine if someone had made this type of analysis following the countless number of mistakes Jose Antonio Remon Cantera made before 1952? Nowadays, we unanimously agree that Remon Cantera performed his presidential term outstandingly. Then what? For instance, I believe there are Torrijists who conduct themselves in good faith and who are very intelligent. These very intelligent Torrijists would be lying to my face if they said that in 1968 they believed Torrijos was a genius.

[Noli] A few minutes ago, we were talking about the selection of a new ARI administrator. Finally, the ARI Board of Directors chose Jose de los Santos Chen Barria, who is the current comptroller general of the nation, I mean comptroller general of the Republic. When is he taking over as ARI administrator?

[Mendoza] Do you realize I sometimes stutter?

[Noli] No.

[Mendoza] I stutter not because my mouth stutters but because my brain stutters.

[Noli] Yes, yes. [laughs]

[Mendoza] Comptroller Chen Barria, for the country's sake, must become Administrator Chen Barria on 1 October. In the meantime, he is becoming familiar with ARI. However, if the president, because of the transition process going on at the Comptroller General's Office, needs or suggests that Chen Barria remain at his current post a few more days, ARI will not object to it. I will repeat what I already said: ARI is part of the government of the Republic of Panama, and the success of the Comptroller General's Office depends on the success of ARI and vice versa. In short, Chen Barria must become, in theory, ARI administrator on 1 October, but because the new Legislative Assembly has yet to appoint a new comptroller general, Chen Barria's taking office could be delayed a few more days.

[Noli] You would not mind this delay, would you?

[Mendoza] Of course not.

[Noli] Let us talk about Dr. Carlos A. Mendoza. Dr. Mendoza is the current ARI president, and so far, he has performed his job without bragging about it. Will you tell me what have you done as ARI president?

[Mendoza] It is not easy for me. Why is it not easy for me? Because I tend to project a super arrogant image. I am trying to employ false humility.

[Noli] And without success. [laughs]

[Mendoza] It does not work, huh? Luz Maria, you must not talk about Carlos Mendoza alone; you must talk about nine Panamanians who, with no ulterior motives and while sacrificing significant and expensive things, have dedicated ourselves, all of us, to ARI full time. What have we done? We have done myriad things. For instance, we made people pay their rent. You might ask me: Does this have any merit? It has great merit, because if people—and here I am talking about people who drive Volvos and BMW's—are not used to paying their monthly rent, it is very difficult for them to get used to paying it. People must understand we did this not to accumulate money in ARI's coffers but to have money to transfer to MIVI, which in turn will not use it, I hope, to build very tiny houses where fat people, like you and me, do not fit in. MIVI will use these funds to build...

[Noli, interrupting] Decent houses?

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[Mendoza] Sound houses, because we Panamanians deserve to live a decent life. Luz Maria, we cannot improvise on what to do with those properties that have already reverted. We have decided to plan what we will do to preserve a basin which, should it be deforested, we would have no water in Panama City, Colon, and Chorrera. We would have no water for a two-lock canal, much less for a three-lock canal. We must determine how we will replace—we have been working on this even on Sundays and holidays—those jobs we will lose when U.S. troops and their families withdraw from Panama. Indeed, they are leaving, no doubt about it, but they are not leaving because they want to leave, Luz Maria; the U.S. Defense Department budget is the one allocating funds down here.

We must also create an atmosphere at ARI unlike the typical atmosphere at a public office. We must do this as part of the government. There are a thousand problems that require for us to closely work with the Foreign Ministry. There are problems that cannot be resolved without involving the Inrenare [Institute of Renewable Natural Resources].

The Planning Ministry plays an essential role in ARI activities. Planning Minister Guillermo Chapman cannot follow one path while ARI is following another, although, ideologically speaking, Chapman and Carlos Mendoza share exactly the same principles. What about MIVI? In short, the... [pauses] Let me tell you something people do not think about. We are talking about setting up industries in the reverted areas, and do you know what happened to Honduras, which used to supply energy to us? What about the blackouts in Honduras? We must determine how to supply enough water and energy.

Have you tried to make a call to the reverted areas? We can get a call from Siberia more clearly than a call from my law office to ARI. What about the sewage system and the basic services? Do not tell me the Americans are handing over all of these services to us. It is one thing to talk about basic services provided to some military bases and another to talk about an industrial emporium serving Panama and the world.

This ARI issue is so important that all of the presidential candidates, beginning with the current president, discussed it time and time again.

The president is aware that this period, which is the period right before the year 2000, means that the success of his administration will depend on the fate of the reverted property.

[Noli] Everything you have said is true. Nevertheless, I ask myself, in a tropical country like this one, what real possibility do you have of doing any work in an administration that does not have anything to do with you; a group of notable gentlemen appointed by the previous administration, including you, who told me a few minutes ago that if I had read your article I would know.

[Mendoza] Luz Maria, I like you very much, but sometimes you come out with the world's most foolish remarks.

[Noli, laughing] That is what I am paid for.

[Mendoza] In the first place, you have incorrectly defined Panamanians....

[Noli, interrupting] Is that so?

[Mendoza] Definitely. We Panamanians are not tropical, we are Caribbeans, which is something else. The Caribbean has unique characteristics. I beg you again not only to read my articles but to read German Arciniegas. I will now address the second part of your foolish remark. You have just stated outright, with inconceivable tranquillity, that we cannot work with Ernesto Perez Balladares. Now, I ask you: What is it about President Perez Balladares that makes it impossible for sensible people, people who are widely thought of as intelligent, for honest people of goodwill, to work with him. Take this into account because it is very serious: As a result of the events in the 1980's, Panama's sense of nationality was seriously weakened. Standing on the threshold of the year 2000, we simply cannot afford to believe that Panamanians of goodwill are unable to work as a team.

I must recognize that President Perez Balladares is an intelligent man. He demonstrates this every day. I must presume he wants to have a good administration because, among other reasons, he does not want to go down in history as a mediocre man or a president who failed his people. There are men on the ARI Board of Directors who he knows are qualified, are of goodwill, and who understand that the nation is over and above political parties.

[Noli] You know something, aside from all those qualities, there are people who ask themselves from time to time what level of success a board of directors or an initiative could achieve, regardless of content, when led by a man such as Carlos Mendoza.

[Mendoza] Obviously you are not in your best form today.

[Noli] Not at all!

[Mendoza] Not even by mistake.

[Noli] Perhaps by approximation? [laughs].

[Mendoza] No, no, no, not even by approximation. Look, the general administrator heads ARI. Let's begin there. Now, the general administrator is a soloist; the most I can aspire to become is the orchestra conductor. He is the one who has all the initiatives, and we are the ones who issue the overall guidelines. Don't forget this. Over the last few minutes, I have been telling you in an obnoxious way about an issue we cannot forget: Carlos Mendoza or the ARI Board of Directors does not implement the overall policies of the Republic of Panama. Chen Barria does not make them up in the oriental

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fashion. The president of the Republic makes them. The president of the Republic was Guillermo Endara, who followed his own governing style. These days Ernesto Perez Balladares is president. Fortunately, the era of the presidents who lasted only months—seven months working full time—is over. It is President Perez Balladares who will direct our strategy, from the day he took office until the day he turns the post over to his successor, just a few months before the Panama Canal is given to Panama.

[Noli] Tell me something: If you are the orchestra director, with baton in hand, what do you do?

[Mendoza] I am trying to get the musicians, who have very distinguishing personalities—and therein lies their merit—to perform with a consumer-oriented frame of mind and to ensure that they will play, instead of screeching, a melody pleasant to the ears of someone who is already in the twilight of his life and who knows music is something pleasant, not an aphrodisiac.

[Noli] Tell me something else: How true is the allegation that you do everything in this style of Carlos Mendoza—of whom some say he is the perfect dilettante, as though being a dilettante could be measured in degrees of perfection—knowing yourself the way you do and occupying the ARI presidency?

[Mendoza, laughing] Look, Luz Maria, the people who say that do not know me at all. Instead of offending me, they are complimenting me! I hope I could do great things, having the agility of a dilettante.

[Noli] My friends, we will be right back. [station pauses for commercial break]

The reversion of the Panama Canal areas has made all Panamanians proud. We all believe that when these properties revert to Panama, economically speaking, things will improve for all Panamanians like magic and that we will use these properties, which are ours, rationally. To what extent can Panamanians' expectations for the reverted areas be met?

[Mendoza] Luz Maria, what happens every Sunday before the lottery? Conduct a poll, conduct a poll among Panamanian gamblers, and you will realize that everyone is absolutely sure he will win the lottery and all his problems will be solved. If you analyze the history of Panama, you will conclude that for the most part it is a history of illusions.

We can do a great deal in the reverted areas, but we will not solve all the problems Panamanians have, much less can we dream that we, our children, or our grandchildren will not have to work. I view the reverted areas as a big challenge for Ernesto Perez Balladares, his government, the ARI administrator, and the ARI Board of Directors. We must prove to the world that we are able to manage the Panama Canal after the year 2000 by managing the reverted areas well. Otherwise, those who supported us in the past will be the first to say, given the Panamanians' ineptitude, let the United Nations come in.

Do you know there are people who read or suddenly recall phrases uttered decades ago, or they bring (Victor Raul Haya De la Torre) back from the grave and say we must internationalize the Panama Canal?

The traditional sources of the Panamanian economy are being depleted. My goodness! Guillermo Chapman knows how incapable I am of understanding economics. This ineptitude notwithstanding, I am aware that we cannot avoid opening up to the world and that many things that exist today—I am not talking about the reverted areas, I am talking about the overall Panamanian economy—will disappear. We are living an era of rapid changes taking place both internationally and nationally, and the reverted areas are basic components of those changes.

A place like Amador...[pauses] behind all of this, although you cover it up with a great deal of elegance, you are overly romantic. Can you tell me that you are not moved by a sunset at Amador in early summer? There is not a lovelier place. Do we not have the perfect place for one of the best tourist centers at the entrance of the only interoceanic canal in the world? However, if we use Amador as a place for Panamanians to lose excess pounds—such as you and I have—by riding bicycles, well, then we will have what we currently have there.

If we decide to rent out those beautiful homes on Amador so people who are rich—either honestly or dishonestly—have a breathtaking view, the nation has no future. However, if we make Amador a big international tourist center, then we are thinking about Panama's future. That is what we are working for full time at ARI.

[Noli] Tell me something. In a country where power is the traditional source of wealth, how are you going to guarantee that those interests do not prevail over what, in your opinion, or in the opinion of the ARI members or of other Panamanians, should be done?

[Mendoza] By being as stubborn as mules. It is an art that is carefully cultivated and administered with infinite patience and with something that still exists among certain Panamanians; that is, natural decency and even the art of insulting with elegance.

[Noli] I must recognize that you have a great deal of knowledge about this subject, because you have done so with great elegance at times, and not so elegantly at others, like during this program.

Nevertheless, there is something I would like you to make very clear: ARI can make a big difference for the Republic of Panama if it is administered wisely and with some common sense. Otherwise, it can become a source of wealth for other sectors, for a sector of the population, any sector, no matter what sector it may be.

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What I still cannot understand is how these gentlemen who are in this group are going to make a difference in what traditionally has been the Panamanians' mode of conduct.

[Mendoza] Yes and no.

[Noli] Yes and no what?

[Mendoza] Yes and no.

[Noli] Oh, I see.

[Mendoza] Don't confuse my words. To say that all Panamanians are rascals is a big lie. That certain Panamanians have buried this nation's reputation in a pile of crap—pardon the expression, but is it fitting, although I still find it lacking—is something else. Do you know what my greatest satisfaction has been when I think of my Board of Director comrades? That not the slightest personal interest has ever, ever arisen among the members. There are nine of us, including me. No one has asked for anything for themselves. No one has begged for anything for a person who was recommended. I am sure that many of the people—both inside and outside the PRD—who have offered their cooperation to Perez Balladares have done so in this spirit. I am talking about people like Guillermo Chapman and Ricardo Alberto Arias.

It is impossible for me...[pauses] it would be morally devastating for me to think that these people, who don't need these jobs, have agreed to serve in the Perez Balladares administration with obscure purposes. I know them; I appreciate them; and I know why they are in the government. I warn you, I am not talking about exceptional cases.

You also would have to agree that within the PRD itself—I was a confessed and proud antimilitarist for an entire generation—there are people who are prepared to risk everything to give this country a government that benefits the entire country, not one party, because parties come and go. They will work to see that when the year 2000 comes around this country can reach maturity, not because of the millennium—we surpassed the level that humankind had reached in the year 1000—but because it has special importance.

I must confess that I am more interested, because of my inclination for history, in the year 2003 than the year 2000, because it will be the Republic's first centennial. The Republic is already over 90, and will mark its 100th anniversary in the year 2003. It would be great if we could state proudly that we are finally: one, a nation; and two, a small but proud nation, not because of our material greatness, but because of the courage and integrity of our public men.

[Noli] Is that why you want to remain at the head of ARI?

[Mendoza] Of course. Otherwise, it would be meaningless to head the ARI.

[Noli] In your position as ARI director, the person who oversees the other Board members to make sure they do things right, what can Panamanians expect from your leadership?

[Mendoza] I will do all I can in a dedicated manner—something Fernando Eleta loves to say—so life becomes nicer for my people, and when I speak of my people, I refer to all Panamanians.

[Noli] Do you think you will accomplish this?

[Mendoza] Listen, to a certain degree, nothing can compare with a person's later years in life, when life's fulfillments are nearing an end. It is also a time of great illusion.

[Noly] Thank you, Mr. Mendoza.

New Director Vows To Rid PTJ of Corruption

PA1509220494 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 13 Sep 94 p 16

[Article by Jose Gonzalez Batista]

[Text] Gabriel Castro, the new director of the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ), yesterday announced the start of an administrative reorganization of that investigative body and said there would be some changes in the middle ranks to purge the institution of corruption.

Castro—who will take office on Friday, 16 August, [as published] following Jaime Abad's departure—made these remarks after being sworn in as PTJ Director in the office of Arturo Hoyos, president of the Supreme Court of Justice.

Castro, 53, the former presidency minister and finance minister during the Ricardo De La Espriella administration, said that just like all citizens, he knows there is "something wrong with the PTJ."

He said that once he becomes the director of that body, he will purge it "because just as there have been changes in directors, the remaining heads of departments and investigative divisions will also be affected. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Castro, who was selected last week as PTJ Director by five of the nine Supreme Court Justices, said he would "restore the PTJ's image and restore everyone's confidence in the PTJ."

The new PTJ director recently said he intends to remain in that office for a year at most. He said he intends to reorganize the PTJ and train a group of lawyers who will remain in the institution after he leaves.

It became known last week that several Supreme Court magistrates had expressed disagreement with Castro's appointment. Meanwhile, the public prosecutors who uncovered irregularities in the PTJ rejected Jaime Abad's acquittal of the corruption charges brought against him.

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Argentina

Declaration Signed With Ecuador on Haiti, Cuba, Relations

PY1509161694 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0032 GMT 14 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Sep (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran Ballen tonight signed a joint declaration expressing their deep concern over the human rights situation in Haiti.

The two heads of state also emphasized the importance of the Rio Group declaration on Cuba.

Menem and Duran Ballen signed the document at one of the halls in the Alvear Palace Hotel. Attending the ceremony were Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, and other high-ranking government officials from the two countries. On the occasion the presidents expressed "their most categorical repudiation of all forms of violence."

The two heads of state reiterated their decision to cooperate in the struggle against international terrorism and drug trafficking.

The joint declaration stresses the results of the Rio Group summit, which had been held in Rio de Janeiro the previous week, where "the political capacity of the members, and the group's importance as a regional mechanism for consultation and agreement, was demonstrated."

Both presidents agreed "on the suitability of strengthening the region's security based on the consolidation of trust, prevention, and cooperation, with the purpose of reaffirming the hemisphere's tradition of peace and solidarity."

Menem and Duran Ballen also reaffirmed the principle of "the peaceful resolution of controversies."

Regarding Haiti, the presidents reiterated their "unequivocal commitment to international community efforts to reinstall that country's constitutional government" and deplored "the de facto regime's intransigence."

The two presidents agreed on the need to strengthen even more their mutual cooperation in Antarctic forums and activities.

In this context Menem expressed its "recognition" of Ecuador's important support in the selection of Buenos Aires as the headquarters for the Antarctic Treaty Permanent Secretariat.

Following the signing ceremony, the Ecuadoran president and wife offered Menem a reception at the Alvear Palace Hotel roof garden. Health Minister Alberto Mazza and Defense Minister Oscar Camilion participated in this dinner.

Also present were General Mario Candido Diaz, chief of the joint staff, Army Commander General Martin Balza, and national Deputy Alvaro Alsogaray.

Duran Ballen held a news conference before the signing of the joint declaration. In it the Ecuadoran president stressed that Ecuador supports "the international community's efforts to democratize Haiti and Cuba," while making it clear that his country "will not participate in an armed invasion."

The visiting president said Ecuador gave the "repented" Iranian diplomat Manuchehr Motamer asylum "for humanitarian reasons, because his life and that of his family were at stake," and with the purpose of "helping friendly countries."

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Paredes refused to confirm if the Iranian citizen was still in Ecuador or if he had emigrated to the United States, "because it is classified information that we cannot reveal for understandable security reasons."

Duran praised the local economic situation during the news conference at the Alvear Palace Hotel, hours before ending his official visit to Argentina.

"This trip gave me a chance to learn from this economic model and take back ideas to implement in Ecuador," Duran said, explaining that he is implementing a "state structural adjustment" program in his country.

Duran said there were "coinciding viewpoints with Argentina" in hoping for "a democratization of Haiti and Cuba," stressing that Ecuador will participate in that international effort "not because the United States has asked them, but to fulfill a UN resolution."

The visiting president said that his country would "send civilian, not military personnel" when Bertrand Aristide's government is reinstated in power, "to rebuild roads, and for educational and general assistance."

Duran said "Ecuador shares the position that the embargo against Cuba could be lifted in exchange for the beginning of a democratizing process, with free and pluralistic elections on the island."

The Ecuadoran president said that he had asked President Carlos Menem "to increase the $45 million credit line assigned to road construction" that Argentina offered Ecuador during the Argentine president's visit to Quito last February.

He also asked that "longer repayment periods be granted for the credit to Ecuadoran towns to purchase Argentine fire equipment."

Duran Ballen expressed hopes that he would received favorable answers to both requests, and thanked the Argentine people for their friendly reception during his visit.

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Article Views 'Carnal Relations' With U.S.

PY1509143094 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 13 Sep 94 p 6

[Article by J.M. Pasquini Duran]

[Text] The Menem administration has justified the "carnal relations" between Argentina and the United States on the grounds that they constitute a feasible and pragmatic way to prevent Argentina from becoming internationally isolated. The truth is, however, that the administration's foreign policy is at present characterized by its isolation from those who should be their natural allies, and by its wholehearted support for causes that have not been backed by Congress and break with Argentina's best tradition in foreign relations.

No attentive reader of newspapers, and least of all experts from the Foreign Ministry, can disregard the fact that the Clinton administration—in view of the coming U.S. legislative elections, in which according to estimates they may very well lose their majority in Congress—is using the Cuban and Haitian issues as red herrings in the same way George Bush used—but to no avail—the banner of the Persian Gulf war to obtain his reelection.

What is more, the crisis of the raft people has shown that the unjustifiable economic blockade imposed by the United States on Cuba has given rise to some of the grievous problems confronting the Cuban people. It also proved that it was Washington rather than Fidel Castro's government that was warding off the legal departure of those who wanted to emigrate from the island. Washington moreover took advantage of the feelings of sympathy by the international community for the desperate emigrants to discredit Castroism. Besides, the immigration agreement reached as a result of the negotiations between the United States and Cuba proved that a dialogue between the two countries is possible and welcome.

These deductions, based on common sense, underpinned the declaration of presidents and foreign ministers belonging to the 14 member countries of the Rio Group. They requested the lifting of the U.S. blockade on Cuba and the continuation of the dialogue between Washington and Havana, while at the same time they deemed it paramount that Cuba implement "a peaceful transition toward a democratic and pluralistic system respecting human rights and freedom of expression, and in keeping with the people's will." Although President Carlos Menem and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella signed this declaration, it is public knowledge that, imbued with the idea of fostering U.S. interests, they had favored a diametrically opposed position (a more stringent blockade, and no dialogue until the political regime changed).

Most Rio Group members supported the principles of nonintervention and self-determination, which are the same ones endorsed by Argentina from Carlos Calvo [1822-1906, jurist of international distinction, diplomat, writer] in the middle of the 19th century, Luis Maria Drago [1859-1921, jurist, writer, foreign minister] at the beginning of this century, the nonalignment policy furthered by Juan Domingo Peron [president, 1946-1955; 1973-1974] up to Arturo Illia's [president, 1963-1966] condemnation of the U.S. invasion of Santo Domingo. Despite this, the Menem administration believes that these principles have been superseded by the globalization of the economy and the United States' absolute political hegemony. It therefore antagonized Brazil, its leading partner within Mercosur [Common Market of the South], and Mexico, the United States' and Canada's privileged partner within NAFTA. Still, it could muster no support, and had to give in. The same happened with regard to Haiti. While Menem defended the military invasion propounded by Clinton, the other heads of state and government insisted on—and were victorious in—demanding a "peaceful solution to the crisis." Once again Menem isolated himself. The drafters of Menemism name this alignment with the United States "peripheral realism," although the foreign minister made it official by using the expression "carnal relations." Regardless of the name, although this strategy purports to reflect modern times, it dangerously resembles one of the versions of the Truman Doctrine in 1947, at the beginning of the Cold War: "Given the fact that, within the framework of the construction of the Pax Americana, the United States has taken upon itself the defense of the anti-communist world and is ready to intervene 'in any part of the free world which is directly or indirectly threatened by an aggression,' regardless whether it is 'foreign or domestic,' the countries under its umbrella must, for the sake of the interests of the said world, accept the control of their domestic and foreign policy by the United States." (Doctrine of "limited sovereignty," from the World Encyclopedia on International Relations and United Nations, page 1579). To update it, one need only replace "free world" with "democracy."

In a more detailed review, it might be said that this doctrine of limited sovereignty has bogged down the investigation into the criminal attack against the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association], limiting it to incriminating Iran without any other basis or legal evidence than the U.S. geopolitical stance in the Middle East. According to this U.S. stance, the ayatollahs have now become the "evil empire," a role earlier played by Iraq, Syria, Libya, the PLO, and Moscow. Bound by this borrowed view, the government did not probe any other possible line of investigation, not even among the local extreme right racist groups.

This concept of limited sovereignty represents the main axis of Menemism's foreign policy. And Menemism only makes exceptions when its electoral needs overwhelm any other considerations. This happened with the government's inexplicable obduracy in the field of reproductive health, when it espoused the Vatican's attitude, which was prompted by religious reasons, right after the

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Constitution abolished the mandatory provision that the Catholic faith must be professed in order to occupy the presidency of the nation. Once again the government was isolated in opposition to 90 percent of the nations gathered at the World Population Conference in Cairo.

As the government wants to follow U.S. doctrines, it might draw some inspiration from the sound warnings of George Washington, the first U.S. president, on what he described as "entangling alliances." Although he did not play golf, Washington knew what he wanted: "The United States," Washington wrote, "must deem its alliances to be transitory, and change its course quickly, based solely and exclusively on its own interests." Washington understood "own interests" to mean those of his nation, and never his private interests or those of his friends or relatives.

Di Tella Supports Brazilian Nuclear Technology Acquisition

PY1509190494 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0141 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Sep (TELAM)—On the evening of 14 September Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said that Argentina would support Brazil's purchase of sensitive and technological material for the development of nuclear energy because this does not "contradict any of the clauses of international safeguards."

Di Tella further stated that "Argentina will support the incorporation of Brazil as a permanent member of the UN Security Council provided that there is reciprocity" on the part of that neighboring country.

Di Tella explained that "the Argentine Government endorses increasing the number of Security Council members, but feels that the process will be long and tedious, while Brazil considers it to be imminent."

The foreign minister stated that relations with Brazil "have improved considerably over the last three years, and will continue to be strengthened." He reiterated that Argentina's support for the purchase of sensitive nuclear material on the part of Brazil does not "affect world security."

Military Salary Increase Not Included in Budget

PY1509215094 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p 6

[Article by Eduardo Barcelona]

[Text] Yesterday the government closed the national budget without contemplating a salary increase for the military. The freeze occurred despite expectations among Armed Forces officers who believed that they might at least get something, even if they did not get everything they wanted.

The fortune of military salaries was decided at a morning meeting at the presidential secretary general's office attended by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, Labor Minister Armando Caro Figueroa, Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella.

A late communique issued by Eduardo Bauza's office led to a mistaken impression because it affirmed that the economy and defense ministries had reached an agreement on the issue of the military budget. Defense Ministry sources denied the report, saying that the only important issue at the meeting was to know whether Armed Forces salaries would improve.

The budget bill will be sent to Congress today. It includes spending for around 42 billion pesos, half of which is in social security disbursements, according to an official source.

Military Discouragement

Camilion held a meeting with the four Armed Forces commanders to brief them on the news early in the afternoon.

The military were convinced that the budget would include some improvement. They learned that was not the case at the same time it was confirmed that the fresh money allotted for the creation of the professional Army would be less than mentioned earlier. Therefore, the rest of the money required for the volunteer Army will have to come from the military budget.

It is obvious that this also was not liked. Of the 317 million pesos that the professional volunteer Armed Forces will cost, 260 million was going to be provided by the Treasury. But now the new remittance will be even less than that. A military chief, with a lot of irony directed against Cavallo, confessed to LA NACION about "the magic hands of the Economy Ministry."

Generals Martin Balza and Mario Diaz, Admiral Enrique Molina, and Brigadier Paulik will meet today to adopt a position regarding the negative decision on the granting of a salary increase. The military believe that they have been "unjustly relegated" with respect to other areas of the public administration, especially where the Foreign Ministry is concerned, because in July its personnel obtained an increase that raised the salaries of ambassadors to nearly 11,000 pesos, for example.

A chief of staff earns 3,700 pesos plus 600 pesos for expenses, while a second lieutenant earns 551 pesos, and a corporal 392 pesos. The salary that has been offered to future volunteers amounts to some 350 pesos, but with the extras it could reach 450 pesos. There will hardly be any difference between the salaries of a soldier and a corporal.

Menem: 'There Is No Malaise' Among Military Over Wages

PY1509224094 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1054 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] La Rioja, 15 Sep (Telam)—President Carlos Menem has denied that there is malaise in the Armed

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Forces over the salary issue and that a public opinion poll was conducted among Army officers to find out who would be their choice as president.

On 14 September, Menem said in La Rioja Province that "there is no malaise" among the military on account of the fact that the government is at present unable to grant them a wage hike.

Asked about a possible salary adjustment, Menem replied: "We will see whether we can plan something for next year."

He pointed out, moreover, that the survey published by a newspaper which shows that the Grand Front outstrips the ruling party as Army members' choice of party for the upcoming elections is "totally phony."

Menem further stated that during the cabinet meeting convened for today, he and his cabinet ministers and secretaries will discuss "some formal aspects" of the 1995 budget.

"We will try to make next year's budget compatible with the five-year plan that is under way," he noted, adding that "the most important thing is that we have put our house in order."

"Never before had the budget been submitted to Congress in due time and form as we have been doing for the last four years," he underscored.

Electoral Ambitions of Labor Sector Outlined

PY0909214394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1941 GMT 6 Sep 94

["Special report for NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS" by Luis Di Nardo]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Sep (NA)—Suddenly, the presence of IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus served as a protective shield for the ongoing CGT [General Confederation of Labor] demand for greater social coverage for those who have been left out of the adjustment plan. The CGT took the opportunity to strike a blow to the weakest side of the economic policy.

It is hard to understand that Camdessus' discourse should have suddenly become progressive, and that he should have uttered ideas like the ones he expressed during his meeting with the CGT executive board: "If the humanitarian component of the economic policy is not reviewed the economic achievements will be pointless."

It is still harder to swallow the "updated" discourse of somebody who, speaking on behalf of the IMF at the annual assembly of the International Labor Organization (ILO) back in 1991, voiced the need to "render the adjustment universal," including policies on industrial retrofitting without a social protection buffer, with labor flexibility and unemployment.

Undoubtedly, the recommendations of the leading commanding official of adjustment programs seek above all to ensure the repayment of Latin American countries' external debts, and this will only be possible if they implement economic stabilization programs.

Primed by fresh funds granted by the IMF, the main Latin American countries have rolled back inflation to levels that were unthinkable a decade before.

In order to consolidate this process, countries also need political stability to ensure the continuity of adjustment programs and social policies to contain the dissatisfaction of sectors that the productive process has placed in a borderline state. This is to stave off the possibility of another revolt like the one that took place in Chiapas.

In the spectacular barbecue that the government organized in honor of the IMF managing director, Camdessus thought aloud in the presence of Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo.

"We have invested a lot of money in Latin America, and we cannot afford to let stability fail," said Camdessus, so as to leave no doubt about the true "humane" sense of the IMF's political about-turn.

The CGT took advantage of this opportunity during its national congress, and while refraining from making a vitriolic attack on the economic policy, it demanded that changes be introduced to this policy, which "has brought about poverty and unemployment throughout the national territory." This was a deep thrust into one of its central tenets, namely, the opening of the economy.

Just in case, the general secretaries took special care not to fling accusations at President Carlos Menem. What is more, they reiterated their support for his reelection as if the economic team were the only ones to blame for what is happening, and the head of state had nothing to do with it.

FATSA [Argentine Federation of Associations of Sanitation Workers] Chairman Carlos West Ocampo was an exception to the rule. During the course of the national Congress he asked for "less golf and more hands tendered to the poor and the workers" in a direct request to Menem.

This difference is in response to current political times in which the discussion of lists of candidates begins. The CGT has an old ambition: It wants to recover the space that it has lost in Congress, but negotiations will not be easy.

As has been expressed by Railway Union leader Jose Pedraza, the ambition of obtaining at least 15 seats throughout the country in the Chamber of Deputies today seems to be more out of reach than when Menem promised the posts to the CGT.

A realistic evaluation today indicates that if the CGT is not able to name candidates in the Federal Capital and

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in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, or Santa Fe, it will be very difficult to achieve the 15 seats.

The leaders have explained that Buenos Aires Province Governor Eduardo Duhalde wants nothing to do with candidates from the labor sector, although as a symbolic form of political compensation he would offer posts that could not be used as election platforms.

In the Federal Capital, [restaurant workers leader Luis] Barrionuevo will again try to place his men behind the candidacy of Erman Gonzalez [Justicialist Party deputy for Buenos Aires Province and former economy and defense minister], but the possibility of placing more than one man from the labor sector as a candidate for deputy is very slight.

In the rest of the provinces, where no more than two or three posts will be renewed, the governors have to answer to their own caucuses before attending to the appetites of the labor sector.

The panorama is thus not very encouraging for the CGT to achieve a large representation in Congress.

The unions that oppose the government, such as the CTA [Argentine Workers Congress] and the MTA [Argentine Workers Movement], have also recently agreed to support the lists of Jose Bordon and Carlos Chacho Alvarez.

The CTA, which is headed by state workers leader Victor de Gennaro, has already decided to support the Grand Front. The MTA, which is headed by bus drivers union leader Juan Palacios, has decided to support Bordon. Truck drivers union leader Hugo Moyano, of the MTA, has already aligned himself with Bordon.

Highlights of Grand Front's Development Program

PY0809235294 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 6 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] The document entitled "Proposals for Productive Development," disseminated on 5 September by [Grand Front leader] Carlos Chacho Alvarez, maintains that an overall continuation of the current monetary policy, the exchange rate, and the fiscal balance are medium-term requisites and conditions for an alternative economic program.

The following points stand out in the main paragraphs:

The Instruments to Hand

Trade policy: This points to the "drafting of an active trade policy to administrate and execute the economic opening process for the benefit of productive development." It highlights "the active promotion of exports with incentives for a greater added value of the same," and the "selective administration of imports."

Fiscal policy: Regarding taxes, the idea is to ease "the pressure on production, transferring it to profits that have not been reinvested, unnecessary consumer products, and nonproductive assets." Regarding public expenditure, there is the intention to reassign "nonproductive allocations to cover the basic social demands of the population."

Monetary and financial policy: This points toward "the full financing of exports under the same conditions as competitive countries use, and the creation of capital for small- and medium-size enterprises."

Sectorial Implementation of Reconversion

"The policy of assisted productive reconversion requires deferential attention at the following basic levels: Industrial, pampas region agricultural, and regional production."

Industrial reconversion: The promotion of specific competitive reconversion programs (PERC) prior to the drafting of a "diagnosis of the competitiveness of the industrial sector, where requested. It is based on the idea that there are no whole sectors that can be considered unviable or viable as a whole." The mechanisms of the PERC will be: "Effective protection through the implementation of import rights;" "specific tax incentives in exchange for quantitative volumes and prices;" and "differential tariffs for critical inputs."

Agricultural reconversion: The document proposes: "A renew of the initiative in the matter of trade" by creating "a public-private organization to execute essential functions;" the "refinancing of debts and flexible loans at lower interest rates, which is feasible when there is stability;" a reduction of "exaggerated tax pressure on smaller producers;" and a "simplification of the tax system to avoid disproportionate expenses in professional fees."

The document adds that there is the need to "promote a more profound technological change over loans;" which will "support incipient associations of a new type that will allow better use of agricultural machinery and inputs;" and "a review of the matter of labor costs, which must be reduced in order to achieve a greater productive efficiency, always bearing in mind that salaries must not be reduced."

Action for small- and medium-size enterprises.

The document says "the country must channel available international financial resources, which are partially or badly used, and increase loans at reasonable interest rates for small- and medium-size enterprises."

It adds that "a system of complementary guarantees must be implemented to overcome the stipulations the banks demand when loans are sought."

"In some cases," it concludes, "there have been abuses in the ways and means of contracting labor that promoted the substitution of permanent jobs for temporary jobs. Control of the formalities, which will also be simplified,

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will be improved so that small- and medium-size enterprises (...) can resort to labor contracts for a determined period of time while launching a new activity."

Rural Leaders Criticize Government, 'Economic Terrorism'

PY1309224794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1256 GMT 13 Sep 94

[Text] Rio Cuarto, Cordoba, 13 Sep (NA)—Eduardo Budd, president of the Confederation of Rural Associations of the Third Zone (CARTEZ), has stressed that there is "a true economic terrorism" in our country that "has caused the worst social chaos of our history."

The CARTEZ president made this remark during the opening ceremony of the 60th Agricultural, Livestock, Commercial, and Industrial Fair of the Rio Cuarto Rural Society of Cordoba.

Budd said: "The social market economy has become a power and money accumulation economy in which money has become a god that we must worship."

This accumulation, Budd added, has transformed "ordinary men and their families into mere pawns on a chessboard on which just a few people move."

In turn, Raul Manelli, the Rio Cuarto Rural Society president, pointed out: "The political leadership has not met the requirements of the interior of our country and those of the agricultural and livestock people."

Manelli added: "To speak from our heart, as the president of all Argentines usually says, it is necessary to understand those we are calling production brothers."

Agricultural and Livestock Front [Frente Agropecuario] leaders, including Horacio Delguy, Federico Palacio, and Eduardo Helguera, who allegedly share the "discouragement and concern" expressed by Budd and Manelli, participated in the fair.

Talks To Resume With UK on Falklands Oil, Sovereignty

PY1509185594 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1115 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has announced that at the beginning of October Argentina and Great Britain will meet in London to resume talks on oil exploration around the Malvinas Islands.

Talks on fishing exploration, meanwhile, will remain suspended "through the fault of the British," the minister said, referring to last month's unilateral decision by the British Government to extend the exclusion zone around the islands.

Di Tella said last night that discussions on oil exploration will be a continuation of the talks on the issue that were held in Buenos Aires during July.

"These discussions began on the wrong foot. Then we had some interesting elements. We will see what happens now," the minister said.

Di Tella said that the islanders had expressed great concern over the ecology of the region, and "would only accept moderate oil exploration in the zone."

Regarding the dispute over the islands' sovereignty, the foreign minister said that the recent agreement in Northern Ireland "favors negotiations, as the British are beginning to accept that separation from that region of the United Kingdom would not be a capital sin."

Di Tella said that Hong Kong's return to China in 1997 "is a very important precedent for ending colonialism."

Brazil

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

PY1609003294 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2005 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By Aldo Renato Soares]

[Text] Brasilia, 15 Sep (AE)—After three years of negotiations, the Brazilian and Russian Governments today signed—at Itamaraty—a cooperation agreement for peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is the first nuclear cooperation agreement that Russia has signed with a non-European country. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said the agreement does not affect nuclear cooperation with Germany, which is Brazil's traditional technology supplier. "Brazil never wanted to be an exclusive partner," he said, adding that "we will always be ready to cooperate with partners who want to cooperate with us."

Under the terms of the agreement, which was signed by Amorim and Russia's Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov, the two countries promise to abstain from using dual purpose (civil and military) equipment, materials, and technology, or any similar items, for developing explosive materials. Each side also promises to ask for previous authorization from the other for using such items in any other nuclear activity. Neither side will be able to export items to third countries without the written consent of the other one. "This is a first action that will lead to more intense cooperation between the two countries," Amorim said.

The Brazilian minister said that the difficulties stemming from each country's nuclear nonproliferation policy, and from Brazil's failure to sign the Tlatelolco Treaty and the quadripartite agreement had made it impossible for Brazil to sign nuclear cooperation agreements. The Tlateloclo treaty bans nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The quadripartite agreement, signed by the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC),

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the Brazilian and Argentine governments, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), provides for regular inspection of each country's nuclear facilities. The text of both treaties were approved by the Senate and promulgated by President Itamar Franco two months ago.

Amorim added that the Russians might cooperate with the Brazilian nuclear program, which provides for construction of two power generating plants, Angra I (which is ready) and Angra 2. "They can certainly be useful in several areas," Amorim noted. The Russian minister visited Angra 1. Brazil is particularly interested in the nuclear safety systems the Russians developed after the Chernobyl accident in 1987. Amorim added that Brazil and Russia have many common features, like their territorial extension, borders with several countries, and also some differences. Russia is a military superpower which has nuclear bombs, while Brazil, he said, "can be considered a superpower of peace." Amorim explained that the agreement establishes the general rules for cooperation between the two countries. The projects to be developed will depend on reciprocal interest.

The areas for cooperation of the agreement include basic and applied research related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy; controlled thermonuclear fusion; research and development—for engineering pilot plants and for scientific purposes—in the areas of research reactors and power generating reactors; industrial projects for developing components and materials that are needed for use in research and power generating reactors, and for their fuel cycles; production of radioisotopes and their applications; radiological protection; nuclear safety and nuclear fuel cycle; and rendering of services in the above areas.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1959 GMT on 15 September, reporting on the nuclear cooperation accord between Brazil and Russia, adds the following: "The agreement, which was signed by Mikhaylov and Amorim at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, guarantees that bilateral cooperation 'will be implemented exclusively in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy, and may not be used for the production of nuclear weapons or other explosive devises, or for promoting any military objective.'

["The international obligations that Russia has acquired in the area of nuclear nonproliferation will apply to the nuclear materials that are eventually exported from Russia to Brazil.

["In Brazilian territory, such materials will be suject to the safeguards established by the Quadripartite Agreement.

["The agreement sets forth that if Brazil wants to reexport some of the purchased materials—uranium enriched to more than 20 percent, plutonium, and heavy water—it will always need Russia's written consent."]

Amorim Cited on Nuclear Accord With Russia, Cooperation

PY1609014994 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Brazil and Russia have signed a nuclear cooperation agreement for peaceful purposes. The document was signed today in Brasilia by Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov. The agreement will be valid for 10 years, with the possibility of being renewed. It will be coordinated by the National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] on behalf of Brazil. [passage omitted]

[Begin Amorim recording] This is a concrete result that demonstrates that Brazil has gained credibility for unrestricted cooperation in advanced technology fields, including this one, which perhaps is the most sensitive of all, with the purpose of promoting development and the well-being of our people. In the world today, nuclear energy is absolutely necessary. [end recording]

Minister Amorim said that this agreement opens the way for cooperation with Russia in other areas of advanced technology, such as the field of space.

Import Tariffs Cut in Light of High Consumer Price Index

PY1509000194 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1916 GMT 4 Sep 94

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Sep (AE)—Here is the text of the Finance Ministry resolution explaining the criteria for lowering import tariffs. The note was released this afternoon.

"Import tariffs

"To maintain price stability in the next few months, in light of the high IPC-r [Consumer Price Index - real] registered in July and August, it is necessary to reduce the excessive demand in some sectors and to control salary demands, thus preventing attempts to return to the indexation of salaries which is immediately reflected in prices. The cut in tariffs seeks to achieve both objectives. The measure will reduce the domino effect of expanded domestic consumption and encourages the market to oppose the oligopolistic stance of Brazilian industry, thus making it more difficult to pass cost increases onto prices. Furthermore, increased imports entail more demand on foreign currency, which in turn will help the exchange rate to reach a more realistic level. The government, considering the favorable effects on the stabilization plan, decided to adopt the Common External Tariff (TEC) at an earlier date. The TEC was negotiated with our Mercosur [Common Market of the South] partners and was to have been implemented on 1 January 1995. It will now follow this new timetable:

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1) Almost all products paying tariffs above 20 percent will immediately conform to the TEC level. This will not affect some informatics products on which agreements have been signed, or dairy products whose temporary 35-percent tariff seeks to compensate for subsidies levied by foreign competitors until the matter is considered by GATT. The following sectors will be affected by tariff reductions during the first stage:

Sector	*Tariff*	*Number of products*
Cereal-based products	30	7
Oil byproducts	25	39
Pharmaceuticals	30	39
Plastics	303	
Informatics/automobiles	25	3
Capital Goods with Serial Numbers	25	128
Capital Goods with Serial Number [as received]	40	5
Electronics	30	73
Electronics [as received]	35	6
Automobiles	30	8
Automobiles [as received]	35	110
Toys	30	24
TOTAL:	445	

2) Within the next few days, as soon as technical studies are complete, other taxes (which are lower than 20 percent) will be adjusted to the TEC level. Thus, the average tax will drop from 20 to 14 percent, excluding capital goods and informatics products.

The cut in import tariffs should have no negative impact on employment levels because of a series of reasons:

a) existing demand will not be reduced, while excessive growth of demand will be checked;

b) competition from imports will increase productivity within the national industry and promote exports. Consequently, any employment drop in industries affected by competition from imports will be compensated by increased employment in export industries;

c) increasing imports does not entail an employment drop in a specific industrial area but a specialization of each industrial sector over fewer products, with the additional benefit of increased productivity;

d) a large proportional increase of imports will be rapidly compensated for by a proportionally small increased domestic income. This will happen because imports account for less than 10 percent of the products on the Brazilian market.

The earlier adoption of the TEC does not entail breaking promises because the private sector has already prepared for the TEC, which should remain stable over the next few years.

Electoral Court Cancels Senator Lucena's Candidacy

PY1409150394 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1100 GMT 14 Sep 94

[By Angela de Oliveira]

[Text] By a vote of five to one the Superior Electoral Court, TSE, has canceled the registration of Senate President Humberto Lucena, who is seeking reelection as senator for Paraiba State, and has disqualified him from running for office for three years.

In its unprecedented decision the TSE found Lucena guilty of abusing his authority in ordering the printing of 130,000 calendars at the Senate printing shop and having them mailed through congressional mailing facilities. Electoral law prohibits candidates from using public facilities and services in their campaigns. In addition government printing offices may not print electoral advertisement material.

Lucena's lawyer may appeal the TSE decision at the Federal Supreme Court.

Government Withdraws From Metalworkers' Strike Negotiations

PY1609021594 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Report by Corvan Costa from the Finance Ministry]

[Text] The government has withdrawn from the negotiations between the metalworkers and car factories. The two parties will negotiate single bonuses according to the possibilities of each car factory, without passing the wage increase costs on to the car prices. This was the result of several meetings that took place today between Finance Minister Ciro Gomes, Justice Minister Alexandre Dupeyrat, and Labor Minister Marcelo Pimentel with the representatives of the car spare parts factories, car factories, and metal workers.

The proposal, which was made by the government, has pleased Luiz Adelar Sheuer, president of the National Association of Automotive Vehicle Manufacturers, Anfavea. He guaranteed that the bonus for the workers will not be passed on to the car prices.

[Begin Sheuer recording] Once a single bonus is paid, it will not become part of permanent budget; therefore, it will not be reflected in car prices. [end recording]

The metalworkers' union president from the Sao Paulo ABC [Santo Andre, Sao Bernardo do Campo, and Sao Caetano do Sul industrial areas] said, as he left the meeting, that he will take this proposal to the metalworkers' assembly that will take place in Sao Paulo on 16 September. The only party that did not reach an agreement was the car spare parts industries, which said the bonus cannot be paid without having it reflected in the prices of spare parts.

Chile

Finance Minister Outlines 1995 Budget

PY3108233094 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Address to the nation by Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat; place and date not given—live or recorded]

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[Text] Good evening. In his address to the nation on 21 May, President Eduardo Frei said, quote, Chile currently faces a historic opportunity we cannot miss, unquote. Undoubtedly the country is currently experiencing a historical moment in the history of its socioeconomic development. If we adopt the right attitude and do things appropriately, by the beginning of the 21st century Chilean society will have reached higher living standards.

History tells us that Chile missed a similar opportunity at the beginning of the 19th century. In the past we experienced political and economic stagnation, and had to wait almost one century for a new opportunity to join the developed world.

Today, the same as in the past, everyone strongly wonders whether Chilean society will manage to join the developed world. President Frei's commitment is categorical: We do not intend to miss the opportunity that lies ahead of us. We are here to implement a series of public policies designed to guarantee a great leap forward in the economic and social field as we approach a new century.

We thus aspire to tangibly honor the needs of the 4 million Chileans who still live in poverty.

President Frei's administration is aware that by consolidating the policies for fighting poverty, it will make effective progress toward the country's true democratization.

To carry out this task with realism we need to choose certain alternatives. Chile is still a country with limited resources and medium income. We cannot simultaneously honor all the peoples' needs, no matter how legitimate they may be. For this reason the president of the Republic deemed it suitable that I address the nation today with the purpose of outlining the government's economic and social priorities. Moreover, this outline will be the global framework for the draft 1995 budget bill.

What do we aspire to achieve by the end of President Frei's sixth year in government? What economic goals have we chosen? If we do things properly, the annual per capita income estimated for the year 2000 will amount to $4,700. This goal represents an increase of almost 50 percent of the per capita income in barely six years. How does this affect the Chilean peoples' living standard? In terms of the peoples' purchasing power, attaining the aforementioned national income level entails reaching a living standard only five percent below the standard currently enjoyed by Spain. This economic development is reflected in many national productive sectors. The employment rate will continue to grow. By the year 2000 we hope to have more than 5.5 million job opportunities, that is, 500,000 job opportunities more than those currently available.

This expansion will be headed by exports. By the year 2000 Chilean exports will surpass $20 billion per year. Chilean exports by then will account for more than 40 percent of our GDP. This figure is comparable with those in the Scandinavian and Asian Pacific countries.

A sound growth is based on productive investment. Fixed capital investments should surpass 28 percent of GDP, with which we will ensure a sustainable development that will surpass 5.5 percent per year. This investment level will be financed, namely, with domestic savings rather than with foreign debt. The proportion of the foreign debt regarding exports should therefore remain at the current level, thus guaranteeing the country's solvency abroad.

The fulfillment of these goals at the end of the six-year term will not turn us, of course, into a fully developed nation. It will contribute, however, to a very significant improvement in the standard of living of all Chileans. We will then be able to aspire to the status of a developed nation in the first five-year periods of the 21st century.

The first essential pillar for taking advantage of this historic opportunity is to attain a general increase in our production. Chile has in great measure already absorbed an important part of the unemployed or underemployed work force of previous decades. We are now facing a new challenge, that is, to increase the quality and flexibility with which our workers can face productive tasks. The qualification and motivation of our hand labor will be a decisive factor for growth upon entering the 21st century.

We need to create a more flexible and more dynamic labor market, which would move our workers from semi-stagnated or declining sectors toward vigorous exporting industrial or modern services sectors. Our labor force must be trained to make things differently, to learn how to learn, to move from one productive area into another, and from one region to another. In other words, we need a mobile, sophisticated, and creative labor force. This is a challenge for reconversion and for readaptation, looking for a better future.

Labor training is the overall part of a greater productive effort. It is the priority of the government of President Frei to give impulse to the decisive improvement of coverage and quality of the current training programs. With this objective, a new statute for training and employment has just been submitted to Congress.

If we want to reach the proposed objectives, the requirements for increasing production are very demanding. In order to reach an annual average growth of 5.8 percent from 1995 to the year 2000, there is a need to increase production by 3.5 percent a year. This percentage is higher than the historical trend of average production in Chile, although similar to the percentages obtained in the last few years. Increasing production is the necessary condition for making Chile a much more competitive country in the world economy.

If we aspire to walk into a new era of development we cannot continue to restrict our exports to ordinary

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merchandise. The so-called second phase of our exports program requires a greater added value and our decisive presence in the modern services world.

There is no sector of the Chilean economy for which this challenge is more important than the public sector. A state that is abreast of the 21st century is one for which the well-being of the consumers is a priority issue, where resources are used efficiently and in a responsible manner, and where objective indicators of productivity determine the workers' salaries.

We are at the threshold of a crucial moment for materializing these objectives. The 1995 budget and the debate on a series of sectorial modernization projects will represent a challenge that will require an efficiency quite higher than that traditionally required in administering the state apparatus.

The increase in productivity entails economic growth as well as equity. Through that channel we will thus attain a systematic increase in salaries and, in turn, a sustainable improvement in the living standards of the poor.

We wish to assert without ambiguities that in order to successfully tackle the productivity challenge, and in order for Chile to join the developed world at the beginning of the next century, education should be our priority issue.

We are going to promote investment in the people through a substantive reform in the way we educate and train Chilean children and youth. This is a nationwide priority task. Basically, it entails granting all Chileans equal opportunities. Education is and will continue to be the main source of opportunities for sectors with lower incomes, to be able to permanently and in a sustainable manner improve the socioeconomic standards.

The human capital each country has is what currently, more than ever, allows it to maintain a healthy and sustainable growth process. Increasing knowledge, technological developments, and the developments in the communication fields have increased the need to have qualified human resources that can adapt to the changing requirements of the socioeconomic system.

The concrete goal of President Frei's administration is, in less than seven years, to reach a global expenditure in the education field that will represent 7 percent of the country's GDP. This means reaching the level that is current in Great Britain or Germany. This great effort will have to be shouldered by the public and private sectors.

In the fiscal field we must gradually increase allocations for education in the budget, so that expenditures in this field increase more than in others.

However, allotting more money to education does not alone guarantee progress in achieving our objectives. A careful definition of how these funds will be used is as important as the funds themselves. We all know that only with effort and dedication we can learn and progress. We must, therefore, improve our education system and our teaching quality and quantity. In the 1960's the [Eduardo] Frei Montalva's administration promoted a deep educational reform. In the three subsequent decades, Chile has achieved very important progress: general basic education, broad secondary education coverage, and a drastic reduction in illiteracy.

This progress gave the country a clear lead in educational matters for a long time. But time passes. Our programs are nearly 30 years old. Our coverage, objectives, teaching methods, and educational system organization have lost consistency. Countries with rapid development are overtaking us through their great public and private efforts to improve education.

In the 1990's, President Frei Ruiz-Tagle's commitment is to improve our educational quality, its access equality, and above all its administration.

This commitment involves four great tasks for Chilean education in the coming years: The first involves a program modernization, which should be understood as adapting education contents to society's needs. Second comes a significant increase in schooling efficiency, that is, the capacity to produce better results. The third task involves retaining more of the poorest students in school, particularly in secondary school.

Finally, it is urgent to improve the administration of our education system. We must efficiently use our resources. These tasks should involve both the public administration and all other participants in the education system, such as teachers and families.

This is also a challenge for the private sector, which must provide new ideas, more resources, and better administration.

Among the new challenges we must stress the initiative to develop a workers education system to enhance youth and adult employment opportunities. We want you, the members of Chilean families, to see how we implement what is at the heart of the Frei administration priorities. It is nothing less than investing in the people.

There will be greater participation of the private sector in infrastructure. It will be impossible to continue our economic growth unless we also provide the country with roads, ports, airports, and in general, with a better quality of life in cities so as to face the challenges of the coming millennium. Our infrastructure is poor. It saps our competitiveness against other nations. If we do not overcome this constraint, we will place in jeopardy our goal and legitimate aspiration to enter the new century in the quest of more wellbeing for all Chileans.

There is a tremendous need for investment in infrastructure. We must make a major effort, in which the state will participate, although it should be achieved above all through private sector endeavor. We have at our disposal the instruments that will enable us to increase private

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investments in infrastructure—like the Licenses Act and the new Capital Markets Act, which are the instruments that we will use with vigor. The strengthening and flexibility of mechanisms in those areas is crucial to achieve this.

Fortunately, thanks to the great and sustained effort to increase domestic savings over all these years, the country has the necessary resources to resolutely undertake this task. If we look at the resources available in the banking system, pension funds, foreign investment funds, insurance companies, and other entities, we see we can channel several billion dollars into this project. This will give us a broad base to meet the demand for necessary infrastructure in the next five years without having to increase government spending in this area.

By the same token, these mechanisms to increase the private sector contribution to improve our infrastructure will prompt the release of resources. The state will thus be free to devote all its efforts to public works programs which have a purely social purpose like social housing, rural development, and community needs.

In sum, Chile has the appropriate institutions to satisfy the aforementioned needs in infrastructure. What is still missing is the implementation of the necessary projects and improvements to the management of the whole system. The government will not sit back and do nothing. We will implement policies to foster private investment in public works. We will expedite the participation of domestic and foreign investment funds in the financing of new infrastructure projects. We will perfect mechanisms for the payment of services rendered so that users may contribute to the funding of services which benefit them. Examples of this include payment for transport based on the distance the cargo was transported, the so-called metropolitan levy [sello metropolitano], the establishment of toll roads, and the Participatory Paving Program. We will also improve regulations and procedures pertaining to the License Act and we will promote the participation of private companies in the building of ports and airports.

We will face the challenge of this historic opportunity mentioned by President Frei and transform Chile into a developed country by increasingly integrating our economy among the large world economic markets.

Economic integration grants the country more and better opportunities. In sum, it allows the country to achieve better wellbeing for all its inhabitants.

The country has undoubtedly reaped important economic achievements in the last couple of years. Today, throughout the world, the Made in Chile stamp is synonymous with quality and prestige. This broadens our opportunities to achieve economic and social development. To continue forward in this direction, we must make sure we have stable regulations for those exports that access foreign markets. We must diversify our goods and services. We specifically intend to increase the flow of foreign investments in the country which will further help to increase our production and make our products more competitive.

Chile will resort to all available tools to expand our export strategy. As everyone is clearly aware, we will promote commercial agreements with the United States and with the other NAFTA members. We will also promote commercial agreements with neighboring countries through initiatives like associating ourselves to Mercosur [Common Market of the South], and other agreements. We will later seek rapprochement with countries in the Pacific rim and Europe.

We will only be able to face today's historic opportunity if we meet the new challenges without neglecting the bases that were arduously forged in recent years. We cannot risk altering our macroeconomic stability or excessively expanding our public finances. These considerations, in addition to the priorities I have just discussed, will be the only guidelines for the 1995 budget bill.

On this occasion, I wish to specifically reassert the government's commitment to maintain fiscal austerity. This will ensure that in the 1995 budget the current public spending rate will be less than the GDP growth rate.

We are aware of the innumerable needs of vast sectors of Chilean society. We are aware of the hardships of many Chilean families and the sacrifices they must make to support and educate their children. In view of this, the most important main task with which President Frei has entrusted us is that of creating equal opportunities for all Chileans. But as I have already stated, Chile is as yet unable to simultaneously handle all demands. The reduced size of our economy compels us to concentrate our efforts on a few tasks which should be those that guarantee us the best economic development in the shortest possible time. There are no shortcuts to achieve this goal. There are no easy ways to achieve development other than that of responsibility and discipline. In sum, we must do what should be done and do it well, although in the process we might have no other alternative than to sometimes adopt painful decisions.

Lastly, another indispensable factor to achieve our ambitious objectives is to have a patriotic political community. We need leaders who are willing to achieve agreements for the sake of the common wellbeing of the people. We will totally avoid situations that favor the interests of a few at the expense of the entire country.

President Frei has made a commitment with all Chileans. He implemented a national project which demands the fulfillment of great social agreements encompassing the government, workers, and businessmen. We are not willing to surrender the way in which we perceive and practice politics.

In compliance with President Eduardo Frei's instructions, tonight I have outlined an important agenda of

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economic transformations. Implementing an educational reform, increasing production at all levels, and eliminating our infrastructure deficit are not goals that can be achieved overnight.

The path we will tread together is not free from sacrifices. In recent years, Chileans have shown that they are able to do this and much more. We are confident that Chile will not let this historic opportunity pass.

Good night.

Colombia

Samper Urges Political Efforts To Avert Invasion of Haiti

PA1609054394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Report by Daniel Rocha from Washington; from the "Seven O'Clock" newscast]

[Excerpts] For many, the heated topic that will resound within the OAS, to paraphrase new OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria, is Haiti. Ambassadors and international personalities have commented on what may happen within the next few hours. [passage omitted]

[Begin Colombian President Ernesto Samper recording] Our position is to support and continue to support all political efforts to avert the unilateral use of force. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dr. Cesar Gaviria has taken over as secretary general of the OAS at a difficult time for Haiti. It is expected the OAS will play an important role in this crisis.

Paraguay

Ecuador's Duran-Ballen Interviewed Before Visit

PY1509183094 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 14 Sep 94 pp 10, 11

["Exclusive" interview with Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen by Celso Chavez S., at the Gloria Hotel in Rio de Janeiro "on the eve of visiting Paraguay"]

[Text] [Chavez] What do you expect from your upcoming visit to Paraguay?

[Duran-Ballen] I believe anything that involves the enhancement of relations between our countries, trade relations, and the signing of agreements on economic cooperation or technical assistance is beneficial for our two nations. We believe the joint participation by an Ecuadoran airline and a Paraguayan airline in a bid to operate an air link between our two countries will be highly beneficial. We have a lot to learn from each other.

[Chavez] In what areas do you believe this assistance might be provided?

[Duran-Ballen] For example, you might provide assistance in the hydroelectric field, in which you have made huge progress. This would be very beneficial for us, and we may be of assistance in other fields. We have already talked about mutual assistance in agricultural development, livestock production, shrimp farms, and other activities.

[Chavez] It is likely that during your visit to Asuncion, your Paraguayan counterpart Juan Carlos Wasmosy will sign a decree, approving the sale of LAPSA [Paraguayan Airlines, Inc.] for the Ecuadoran SAETA company and other partners from our country. How will this enhance our relations and what does your nation expect?

[Duran-Ballen] I believe the association between Ecuadorans and Paraguayans is a joint effort, involving fluid trade and tourism between the two countries—not just between our two countries, but also involving other Latin American nations beyond our respective borders. An air route from Buenos Aires to the U.S. west and east coasts is yet another opportunity to gain access to that country and other countries along the route for Paraguayan tourists and vice versa. It will add something that probably never existed before, allowing Ecuadorans to broaden their horizons through the countries to the South.

[Chavez] What is your opinion of the Paraguayan political process? Have there been advancements or setbacks?

[Duran-Ballen] I believe the whole of Latin America is satisfied with the restoration of democracy in Paraguay a few years ago and the pursuit of the democratic process—already under the second democratically elected administration. This is satisfactory in today's Latin American and Caribbean world, in which virtually all countries understand that democracy and the election of presidents, governors, and legislators in free and entirely open elections must prevail. I believe it is important and demonstrates the growing awareness in Latin America that this is the only way to govern. During the Rio Group Summit, we called for a similar process in Cuba and Haiti, which are the last two countries where democracy has not been restored or, if it was restored, it was not possible to maintain.

[Chavez] During the Rio Group Summit, President Wasmosy proposed an in-depth review of democratic governability. This problem is encountered by a large number of Latin American nations. What is your opinion of this situation?

[Duran-Ballen] Perhaps this is because we are young nations. We are still experiencing a transition process, attempting to discover our identities. We talk about democracy but, to a certain extent, we are impatient. We want short-term solutions to our problems. We want solutions that took decades and centuries to formulate in other countries. Nevertheless, I repeat that we believe in democracy but we do not always have patience to respect the decision of the majority. Sometimes we want to

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impose things. Governability in Latin America is missing a lot but I believe we are gradually implementing the process.

[Chavez] Corruption is one of the evils that punishes and sometimes even jeopardizes the stability of democratic governments in Latin America. In your opinion, what should be done to eradicate or minimize this scourge?

[Duran-Ballen] Compliance with the law must be more strictly observed. It is not that our countries lack legal methods to curb this scourge, greater efficiency is required in implementing existing laws. Greater efforts are required. Many times it is necessary to participate in parallel legal procedures in Latin America, thus facilitating extraditions and preventing the escape of those who break the law, including presidents and people in public administrations who abuse the law because they know they will be sheltered in other countries. If we understand that anything affecting one country affects us all and if we understand that there is cooperation and similar legal procedures, I believe we will gradually wipe out corruption.

[Chavez] It seems our region is marked by this evil.

[Duran-Ballen] I believe it is a worldwide evil. I do not believe it only occurs in Latin America. To compare recurring acts of petty corruption in one country with those of other countries where corruption is less common but of greater magnitude, can give the impression that it is necessary to correct corruption in our region more than in other regions of the world.

[Chavez] In conclusion, what proposals do you take to Paraguay and what does Ecuador expect from your visit?

[Duran-Ballen] Above all, to enhance our relations. We have always had friendly relations. We must enhance these relations because we are not border countries. There are nations in between and our relations are not as close as they might have been. We have similar ethnics, a similar language, and a similar religion. In a nutshell, there are many things to unite. Both countries believe in democracy, we practice it, and we have the same multiethnic concept which has enriched the nationality of our respective countries. We have so many things in common that we should become further integrated, become more acquainted, and help each other more in the current world of trade opening. I am sure we will jointly discover many things that were unknown to each other. I believe this close contact will help achieve this week a real Latin American fraternity between Paraguay and Ecuador.

Ecuador's Duran-Ballen Arrives, Received by Wasmosy

PY1509022094 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 14 Sep 94 p 8

[Text] Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen started a three-day official visit to the country at our main airport this morning. His trip from Buenos Aires was delayed by half an hour. The Ecuadoran president was received by his Paraguayan counterpart Juan Carlos Wasmosy and other national high-ranking civilian and military authorities. After the protocol honors, Sixto Duran-Ballen, who came from Argentina, where he also was considered an illustrious guest, drove to the National Heroes Mausoleum, where he deposited a flower wreath in honor of our country's martyrs.

Then Sixto Duran had a private meeting with President Wasmosy at Government Palace. On the occasion, the two presidents exchanged presents.

Technical Cooperation

Duran-Ballen's visit is made in return for the visit Wasmosy made to Ecuador at the end of January 1994. The visit of the Ecuadoran president will be a good occasion to formalize a technical cooperation agreement creating an Ecuadoran-Paraguayan Permanent Coordinating Commission.

The presidents will also sign an agreement establishing technical and financial cooperation between Ecuador's National Financial Corporation and Paraguay's Industry and Commerce Ministry; an agreement on technical, agricultural, and fishing cooperation; and an air transport agreement.

At the end of the Ecuadoran president's visit, the two heads of state will sign a joint declaration in which they will once again express their desire to continue to strengthen the existing ties between the peoples of Ecuador and Paraguay.

Duran-Ballen considers it necessary for Latin America to count on common legislation that will prevent heads of state and high-ranking state officials who have committed illegalities during their tenures from fleeing. In addition, he does not reject the possibility that he will raise the topic during his visit.

There is also talk about the possibility of increasing trade between the two countries, especially in the export of beef.

In Congress

As this issue was going to press, Duran-Ballen was participating in a solemn welcoming ceremony in Congress.

President Signs Decree Privatizing National Airline

PY1509233294 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Sep 94 p 13

[Excerpts] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy signed Decree 5603 on 12 September approving the results of public international bidding number 1/94 for the sale of 80 percent of the shares of Paraguayan Airlines, Inc.

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(LAPSA). The contract is awarded to Cielos de America, which comprises a Paraguayan enterprise and the Ecuadoran airline SAETA.

LAPSA is the first state company to pass to private hands. Four other state companies are in the process of being privatized. LAPSA has endured a long economic and financial crisis that consumed millions of guaranies in subsidies from the Paraguayan Treasury. This will, in the end, be paid by the Paraguayan people, because subsidies are never repaid.

It is important to stress that the privatization of LAPSA was approved by Special Law 320/94 because of its critical situation. A special commission drafted the documents establishing the bases and conditions for the international bidding, which was not awarded after the first call on 22 July because there were legal objections that might have turned the award into "a legal battle." [passage omitted]

According to the transfer documents, Cielos de America is a company that comprises the Ecuadoran firm SAETA and Paraguayan entrepreneurs Rafael Schvartzman, Gabriel Lauffer Beissinger, and Alejandro Lauffer Beissinger.

Peru

Government Plans To Be 'Actively Involved' in Asia-Pacific

PY1509125694 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 27 Aug 94 p A22

[Text] The government is determined to get actively involved in the Asian market. To that purpose the Foreign Ministry has drafted a comprehensive action plan outlining the Peruvian strategy to become politically and economically involved in the vigorous Asia-Pacific region.

Right from the beginning of the current administration, various economic, governmental, and academic sectors have pointed out the need to look not only to the north or to Europe, but to focus on the other side of the Pacific Ocean, where the Asian countries are growing at an incredible pace and are thus increasing their purchasing capacity.

Little had been done up to now about the matter, but thanks to an opportune initiative by current Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg, who summoned the various sectors involved, the drafting has begun of a comprehensive action plan designed to establish the guidelines of what will be the strategy for political and economic links with the Asia-Pacific region.

According to Minister Goldenberg, the current trade between Peru and Asia is still very small. Peruvian exports to that region amount to an average of only 20 percent of the country's overall exports. Through 30 July, Asian-Pacific investments in Peru had not reached 5 percent.

The two-year plan was discussed with the private sector and provides, from the political viewpoint, the strategy for Peru's entry into the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Countries such as Mexico and Chile already belong to APEC, but Peru, on the other hand, will have to wait until 1996 to ask to be accepted, because until that year APEC will accept no new members.

From the economic viewpoint, the comprehensive action plan provides for the promotion of investments through visits from business delegations and the culmination, in the next few months, of agreements for the protection of investments with countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia. It should be recalled that similar agreements have already been reached with China, Thailand, and South Korea.

The objective, in sum, is to step up Peru's political, diplomatic, and economic presence in the zone.

It was also disclosed that the plans of the Peruvian heads of mission in the Asia-Pacific region had been approved. These officials were in Lima between 13 and 25 August to assess and tighten relations with the countries of that region.

Uruguay

Blanco Party Candidate Interviewed

PY1209163894 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 1 Sep 94 pp 68, 65

["Summary" of interview with Alberto Volonte, leading Blanco Party presidential candidate, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] [BUSQUEDA] Does the plebiscite result affect your electoral strategy?

[Volonte] No. My electoral strategy was not based in any element mentioned in the constitutional reform proposal. What changes the future of the electoral situation are the events surrounding the extradition of the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] militants.

[BUSQUEDA] Why?

[Volonte] Because beyond the philosophical differences between the political parties we could reasonably expect to reach an understanding on some points. The problem is that by showing up at the demonstration in favor to the ETA militants the Broad Front leadership approved the resistance by minority groups to a court order. That is very serious. The campaign issue is no longer—as mentioned in political circles—based on the differences between neoliberalism and democracy, but between democrats and non-democrats. Past options have been replaced by a choice between those who respect the law

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and the fulfillment of court orders and those against the state of law and who cast doubt on the fulfillment of court orders.

When thinking about the future, we wonder what would happen if these events occurred while a Broad Front government ruled the country. Surely the executive branch would not respect the court order. Therefore, simple slogans are over. We must now discuss basic and profound issues. We will never lose our desire to try to understand each other, but as of last week it is evident that things will be more difficult with that social group.

[BUSQUEDA] Does the same apply to the PIT-CNT [Inter-union Workers Plenum - National Convention of Workers] which followed the Broad Front and assumed the same position?

[Volonte] I do not share their attitude. I disagree with the PIT-CNT because it called workers out on strike to support the idea of disobeying a court order. The workers federation is dedicated to defend the interests of workers and their ultimate responsibility is not to sustain the state. That is a responsibility proper of a political party. They are responsible because they prepare the people who will later make the decisions.

There is no doubt that Blanco Party followers would have respected a court decision. There are not doubts that a New Space follower or a Colorado Party follower would also have respected it, even though the Colorado Party went through a difficult internal situation that was hard to understand and that resulted in certain disagreements within the party's largest faction.

[BUSQUEDA] Are you referring to Hugo Batalla's remarks about the issue of asylum to the ETA militants?

[Volonte] Yes, but what is important is the firm willingness of this presidential candidate to respect the court order. The other position represents an internal inconsistency. The Broad Front, however, would undoubtedly have disrespected the court decision.

[BUSQUEDA] You offered and requested governability. Will you request or offer support to the Broad Front in the future?

[Volonte] If I lose and the Broad Front calls us to cooperate, we will first ask them to publicly commit themselves to respect court orders and the basic foundations of a state of law. I will accept their explanation, but if they do not offer guarantees that they are committed to respect the law, we will not support them. If I win, I will call them and demand guarantees that they will firmly contribute to maintain democracy during the five years of my administration. If they do that, they may join the government.

[BUSQUEDA] Is is possible to talk with a Broad Front that still has the Tupamaro Movement as a partner?

[Volonte] It is possible. I respect the internal life of parties. The Colorado Party is going through a very difficult internal situation. I do not want to intrude. I respect that party. On the issue of the ETA militants I will only comment on Julio Maria Sanguinetti's remarks because if I start digging into the problem I will surely find contradictions that do not interest me. Broad Front internal problems are much more serious. Violent groups are active among their followers. As far as I am concerned the Front's leadership must issue the appropriate guarantees. Those voting for the Broad Front cannot be held hostage, condemned to remain isolated just because a group among them creates problems.

[BUSQUEDA] Herreraist faction presidential candidate Juan A. Ramirez said that the government team supports him. What can you do to convince the population that your proposal will also continue what the government has been doing?

[Volonte] The National Party has ruled here. Luis Alberto Lacalle was elected president, but Senator Carlos J. Pereyra could just easily have been elected president. Lacalle's policies followed the party's platform.

[BUSQUEDA] But if the current government team supports Ramirez, people might think that you will implement different policies.

[Volonte] If you define the team as the people who have served as public servants, yes, Ramirez has their support. Now, what is a team's worth? Is a team just a group of people or a group of ideas that we must permanently and independently implement? Here, in the country, the party implemented a grand stabilization plan which is necessary and prior to any important economic plan. I do not want to minimize what has been done. This plan was carried out by a group. We have our own team that is preparing everything to continue developing the country. We think it is all right if Ramirez wants to continue with Ignacio de Posadas, economist Javier de Haedo, or Minister Antonio Mercader. They are great Blanco Party followers, but we have our own team. Policies are not anyone's property.

[BUSQUEDA] Will you continue the stabilization program, or will you implement an economic policy, at last?

[Volonte] We are working on our proposal, which is based on maintaining stability. We propose a tougher fight against inflation until we can get the rate to really low levels. The most our country can tolerate is the international inflation level.

[BUSQUEDA] How will you lower inflation to those levels?

[Volonte] By leaving some of the current economic policy parameters unchanged, not as this government's recipe, but as a universal parameter. We need total fiscal balance, very strict fiscal discipline, and an open economy in order to reach zero inflation rate. We must agree that the most essential point is the fight against inflation. I am not willing to sacrifice this goal or agree to stabilize inflation at 40 percent, as some people are

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willing to do. I do not support shock measures, I favor gradual policies. We will try to increase the competitiveness of our exports, but I insist, our main goal will be to defeat inflation.

[BUSQUEDA] And how will you achieve both things?

[Volonte] The stabilization program implemented by this administration did not manage to roll back inflation fast enough to accompany the dollar exchange rate because the state reform fell through in 1991. One does not have to pass any laws to streamline the state so as to improve services, slash public spending, and ease the burden on the private sector. The exporting sector suffers from a lack of competitiveness due to the gap between its profits and its internal costs. This claim is totally valid. We are in no way willing to devalue the peso in order to improve competitiveness. One way to reduce taxes is by providing efficient public services. Another way is by turning the budget law into a major law. To do this, it is paramount to know how much I owe and on what I must spend. Ending the indexation of the economy—except for pensions, which by being included in the Constitution cannot be modified—is also central. Indexation of wages will be automatically replaced by novel systems of wage hikes linked to productivity gains. Wages will thus be increased while at the same time we will do away with the perverse system of indexations. It has been proven and accepted by all economists that productivity does not fuel inflation. On the contrary, pay increases pegged to productivity help curb inflation.

[BUSQUEDA] You are against implementing a major devaluation. Will you therefore maintain the current dirty float policy?

[Volonte] We will define that policy according to the situation in March 1995 because we do not know the result of Brazil's economic program or how Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's plan will evolve. It would thus be rash of me to say what will happen in March or April.

[BUSQUEDA] What is your plan?

[Volonte] To allow a clean float of the dollar at the start until a fixed exchange rate is established. I insist that this is in theory; to establish a fixed exchange rate I need to know how things develop.

[BUSQUEDA] How will you do this?

[Volonte] By deregulating the floating rate as the state reform moves ahead and efforts are made to improve productivity.

[BUSQUEDA] There have been many demands for the government to implement a trade policy. What do you intend to do?

[Volonte] To establish a trade ministry. The idea is to use the Foreign Trade Directorate as a basis and to centralize everything that is arbitrarily distributed among the Economy, Foreign, Planning and Budget, and Livestock Ministries. The trade ministry should serve as a major tool at a time when Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the regionalization of trade constitutes our overriding concern. Exporting is not more important than importing. The important thing is to trade. What does it matter if sometimes I export a lot and at other times I export very little? Or whether my exports sometimes decline and my imports grow? The key is to trade on an ongoing basis and this is one of the roles of the state. Besides, the private sector must have at its disposal the most updated information on how to trade, how to better place its products, where our comparative advantages lie, where its niche is. This is one of the duties of every government; not to direct foreign trade but rather to orient it.

[BUSQUEDA] Would you maintain the current tariff policy or will you apply some sort of compensations?

[Volonte] The tariff policy is no longer a domestic policy but rather a Mercosur policy. We are against establishing domestic barriers to replace tariffs, but we will see what our partners inside and outside the region do. We will not go into a trade war blindfolded. Our policy is not have recourse to anything that will substitute tariffs in order to hide the inefficiencies of the private sector. We will fully support those who are efficient but who fall prey to moves that may damage their competitiveness outside the country. We will not increase tariffs. We will only implement protection policies to benefit efficient companies or people who are the victims of unfair competition practices.

[BUSQUEDA] You must have heard during your election campaign that efficiency causes unemployment. What do you have to say about this?

[Volonte] If we praise the most able and efficient ones we will have more job opportunities. Temporarily, some people may lose their jobs, which is something totally different. I am optimistic because there is a near consensus among Uruguayans on this issue. Even the PIT-CNT acknowledges that unless we privilege efficiency we will not create more jobs. The entire society should not bear the brunt of some jobs being lost. The nuance is very important. The government and all Uruguayans should strive to strengthen sound rather than flimsy sources of income which temporarily keep people employed, but then release to society people who are not trained for other jobs. I have not chosen this. It is a part of the world in which we live. The world is in the throes of turning out cheaper and better products. In the past, manufacturers conditioned societies and sold them what they produced. Now, they sell what the people want. This is the golden rule—to sell what the market wants at the most appropriate price.

[BUSQUEDA] You spoke about improving the state and the efficiency of public companies. Will you privatize public companies?

[Volonte] Any task that is better done by the private sector should be done by the private sector. But we must see how that can be worked out.

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[BUSQUEDA] What about the social security system?

[Volonte] In that case I would say no. I do not think the private sector can perform with more efficiency and security in this area. I have many reasons. One is that private companies in the world—France and England—have an average life expectancy of no more than 30 years. In this area, therefore, the private sector lacks an essential element: It does not last long enough to handle something that must be stable. I would never support the privatization of the BPS [Social Security Bank] or the handling of social security funds by the private sector.

[BUSQUEDA] Would you not consider a mixed system?

[Volonte] No. The BPS must administer all the resources. The BPS can reach agreements with the private sector, as the ruling entity, and support the creation of complementary pension systems. UTE [Uruguayan Workers Union] has a system like that. Employees contribute to the BPS and a local voluntary system.

[BUSQUEDA] What changes would you introduce into the BPS?

[Volonte] We must change the retiring age. This is one of the things pensioners must strive to change if they are to continue to maintain the reasonable incomes they have received for the past few years. The current average 15 to 20 years of retirement contributions must be reduced to 10 or 15 years. We must reduce the average number of years we pay pensions from today's level of 15 to 20 years to 10 to 15 years. This is also in accordance with modern life because today women at 55 and men at 60 are still full of life.

[BUSQUEDA] This means that you would raise the retirement age to 60 and 65 years.

[Volonte] Those are the ages we have been considering. The alternative is to implement a very severe control on contributions. This is, those who cannot clearly prove they have contributed for at least the past 10 years will not receive anything. I think those are the basic measures we must implement. They will not cause any problem to current pensioners. I totally support the constitutional reform that will be put to a plebiscite during the election, establishing that pension systems cannot be changed by budget laws.

Pensioners beat me in making that proposal. There is no reason to include inappropriate items in budget laws.

[BUSQUEDA] Can you comment on your Armed Forces policy?

[Volonte] Our Armed Forces are part of our national identity. Any type of regionalization, like Mercosur, will eventually lead to the creation of a common Armed Forces in the region. That has happened everywhere and that is why I want the best possible Armed Forces. We will never have the largest or the most powerful military forces, but we can have the more intelligent and best trained forces so that they can fulfill leadership positions. What is the great advantage of Mercosur? The common market will probably be commercially lead by Brazil or Argentina. We cannot hope to do that, but we can dominate it intellectually. We have the capacity and the people to do that. We must be near leadership positions, have the greatest economic influence, or the best intelligence. We must be prepared to have the best intellectually and technologically trained Armed Forces for the time when regional forces are created.

[BUSQUEDA] What does it imply? Modernizing our equipment?

[Volonte] Not necessarily. I do not want anything utopian. I want an Armed Forces capable of identifying our nation. I want the most competitive military forces. We must give them more importance, reform them, make them attractive so that people who join are not those with no other alternative but those who have a real vocation.

[BUSQUEDA] What is your opinion of Lacalle's military policy? Are there wounds to heal following the incidents of the past few years? Some say Lacalle tarnished them with a partisan promotions policy.

[Volonte] The conduction of Armed Forces is personal. I will exercise that right personally. It is a presidential prerogative and the Armed Forces want a president with the capacity to lead them. President Lacalle may have made some mistakes over some promotions. It is possible. No one is perfect. That the Armed Forces were tarnished with partisan politics? Let he who is free of guilt throw the first stone. If there are wounds to heal, I trust in the military's professionalism. I think the new government will not find an Armed Forces with wounds or resentments if there were injustices.

French Guiana

France's Chirac Criticizes U.S. Haitian Refugee Policy

BR0909151894 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9 Sep 94 p 6

["G.D."-signed report: "Jacques Chirac Criticizes U.S. Policy"]

[Text] During his visit to Guiana, Jacques Chirac heavily criticized the United States for wanting to transfer to Suriname 2,500 Haitian refugees currently being held in the Guantanamo base in Cuba. The mayor of Paris said he was "scandalized, because the Americans must be aware of the fact that Suriname will only be a stop-off on the journey of these Haitians," who would then want to emigrate to French Guiana. These refugees, he told local TV, "will of course see this as being a country where their language, French, is spoken" and, "moreover, they will see wealth there for them, or at least the possibility of obtaining wealth."

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This French overseas department, separated from Suriname only by the natural frontier of the Maroni River, may look like an El Dorado for them. Guiana enjoys the highest standard of living in South America with a per capita GDP of $2,700 thanks to subsidies received from France and the activity of the European space center in Kourou.

The affair goes back as far as July, when Suriname agreed to take in 2,500 Haitian boat people at the military complex of Bos Bivak, 60 km south of Paramaribo, for a maximum period of one year. The United States agreed to supply aid and the funds necessary for this operation. The agreement is now coming into effect and an initial group of 200 Haitians is expected to arrive today.

This should again trigger the issue of immigration in French Guiana, where there are currently some 20,000 Haitians and 15,000 Surinamese living illegally. More than 4,200 of them were expelled by the authorities in 1993: 3,629 Surinamese and 582 Haitians.

Appeal to the Government

If a new wave of refugees emigrated to Guiana, then there could be a repeat of the serious situation witnessed in the eighties. Guianans have not forgotten the camps of Saint-Laurent, Acarouany, Charvein, and PK-9, which between 1986 and 1993 took in more than 10,000 refugees fleeing the civil war in Suriname and which cost the French state 340 million francs. It took the intervention of the UNHCR to repatriate the refugees.

Jacques Chirac has no intention of France allowing the United States to settle the Haitian refugee problem on its own. He stressed: "If France can do something for Haiti, a country with which we have close ties, we must do so directly. However, this one-sided situation is most prejudicial to Guiana and I would like the government—I have already spoken to the foreign minister on this subject—to react rapidly with regard to the United States which has no right to take this kind of action."

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